

Calla Ruff  
Brunswick  
LD 928

3/21/2023

To: Senator Stacy Brenner, Representative Lori Gramlich, and Honorable members of the committee

From: Calla Ruff

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 928, a Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment

My name is Calla Ruff and I live in Brunswick and go to Waynflete School.

I am writing as a student to urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 928.

Maine is my home. I grew up on day hikes and kayak excursions in the Midcoast region, learning to love every second spent outdoors. We had a book detailing many of the local hikes and outlets and a goal to hit as many as possible. I am intimately familiar with the way the air smells in fall and the squish of mud beneath my shoes from March deep into April. When it came time to take my senior photos, the only logical place was Thorne Head in Bath. I dragged our family friend/photographer along the farther trails, stopping periodically to climb trees and admire the river. I visited Baxter State Park for the first time last summer and the euphoria I felt at the top of Katahdin was incomparable. My first time in the County was for the nordic skiing state races, and I was in awe of the sheer quantity of snow and the unbelievable beauty of the trails at the Outdoor Center. No matter where you go in the state you will find nothing but natural beauty. This is what makes Maine special.

-The PTA ensures that all Mainers have the right to a clean and healthy environment for generations to come.

-Our Maine identity is about our outdoors, woods, waterways, ocean, hiking, hunting, and fishing. All Mainers deserve a right to this way of life for generations to come.

-No person in Maine, whether today or decades into the future, should have to question their right to a clean and healthy environment.

-Our state is defined by our extraordinary environment - it is who we are and what we value, as individuals and as a state. Protecting the health of our waters, air, land and wildlife is essential to our future well-being and prosperity.

I have gotten to love Maine in all its beautiful natural glory for my whole life. It defines Maine and it has defined my childhood. Everybody deserves the right to that as well, whether they grow up in Maine or choose it later in life. Let Maine remain glorious. Let Maine remain protected.

Respectfully submitted,  
Calla Ruff