

21 March 2023

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

From: Margaret Marshall

Re: Testimony in Support of LD928, a Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment

My name is Margaret Marshall, and I live in Orland. I am writing as a concerned citizen and retired teacher to urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD928.

I lived for 37 years on 63 acres of wooded land in Corinth, Maine, hauling water from a spring while we built our house, growing our food and living closely to the land. For 30 years I supported Maine children learning to read. From my love and close contact with the land, I created learning units around nature, incorporating reading skills into learning about the wonder and beauty all around. Connection with nature is important for our future.

I now live in Orland, overlooking the Narramissic River, which connects to the Penobscot River, which has suffered from mercury poisoning. And there is a proposal in nearby Bucksport to reinstitute a landfill that has already poisoned the Penobscot and is currently unsafe to use. LD 928 would give Bucksport citizens support in making sure that the landfill is environmentally safe, or that it isn't and should not be implemented.

I support LD928 for many reasons:

- I am very concerned about our **future generations**. Dirty water, dirty air, and polluted soil endanger their health. I have seen the effects of poor health on the ability of children to learn. Food grown on **PFAS polluted soil is not healthy**, and even fish from the ocean are not always safe. **If nature is not appreciated or valued, who will protect the environment in the future?**
- LD928 would strengthen the ability of citizens, through required support from the government, to **ensure that potentially harmful projects** – like the proposed landfill in Bucksport – find sustainable ways to move forward,

not only **protecting the environment**, but also **saving money** that would eventually be needed to **correct the damage** created by the landfill.

- Maine is defined by our **extraordinary environment**. It is not only important to the **health of us who live here**, but also to **Maine's economy** – tourists who come to the ocean, lakes, and forests – those who support the tourist industry. Also, Maine's environment is a factor in **drawing new businesses here**.
- **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**.

I have two new grandchildren. What will their future in Maine be? For current and future Mainers, LD928 would protect our health, the health of the environment, and the health of Maine's economy.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD928.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Marshall

Margaret Marshall
Orland, Maine citizen
LD 928

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