

March 21, 2023

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

From: Jennifer Armstrong

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 Jennifer Armstrong in live and work in Kennebunkport, Maine. I am writing as a business owner, activist, and concerned citizen to urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 928.

I grew up in Northeast Ohio, and as I sit here today, writing to you, I am extremely concerned about my parents, family and friends who live devastatingly close to East Palestine, Ohio (the location of the recent toxic train derailment disaster). An enormous amount of hazardous chemicals has contaminated air and water in these environmentally challenged communities. Relaxed regulations have led to the catastrophic conditions people are suffering from today, and the unknown effects that are sure to surface in the future.

- The foundational right of clean air, clean water and a healthy environment is essential in moving Maine forward, to protect our citizens today, and for generations to come.
- The amendment would give our elected officials a beneficial environmental lens with which to view ALL issues through. The secured permanent right of clean air, clean water and a healthy environment is essential to our livelihood.
- ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE-- The Pine Tree Amendment will ensure ALL communities- regardless of race, income level or ethnicity- have equal rights to clean water and air and healthy environments, and it will be the duty of government officials to protect ALL communities equitably.

My hope is that all Mainers will be protected from devastating, harmful, health-threatening events and disasters like the one that has transpired in my home state. I urge you to support the PINE TREE AMENDMENT- our health is in your hands.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Armstrong
Kennebunkport, ME

