

Wendy Schlotterbeck
Auburn
LD 928

March 22, 2023

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

From: Wendy Schlotterbeck

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 Wendy Schlotterbeck and I have lived in Auburn, Maine for 31 years. I am writing as a retired high school teacher, former youth minister, active community volunteer and concerned citizen to urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 928.

The natural beauty of our state; the blue skies, pristine snow covered trails, rivers, lakes and ocean are integral to our way of life and economy. So many of the jobs in Maine depend on the soil, water, forests and ocean ecosystems. We need to act now to preserve these endangered treasures.

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

Our right to a clean and healthy environment should be as fundamental as our right to vote.

The PTA would ensure that all Legislatures, Governors, laws, and permits will honor the rights we should have to a healthy environment. Laws can be made and unmade, but the Constitution is permanent.

Pennsylvania, Montana and most recently New York have already passed this kind of environmental amendment. PA & MT amendments are being used to prevent harmful gold mining operations; advance drinking water protections from PFAS contamination; prevent state legislators from raiding environmental protection funds; require consideration of science and impacts before permitting environmentally damaging operations; secure cleanup of toxic contamination, and more.

I spent long summers on a Maine coast island and fell in love with the rocks, trees, ocean and sunsets. These natural offerings are threatened by runaway climate change which we can do little to mitigate. However by passing LD 928 there is a chance we in Maine can help protect our environment, water and air to help delay or reverse the mass extinction on the world's horizon

I urge you to vote to pass on LD 928 and send it to the people for their vote.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Wendy Schlotterbeck, 79 Skillings Corner Rd Auburn, Maine 04210