

Lily West  
FREEPORT  
LD 928

March 22, 2023

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

From: Lily West

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 Lily West and I go to school at Freeport High School in Freeport Maine. I am writing as a student to urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 928.

The climate is entering a new phase as we speak. We have already done enough damage that as a young person, my hope often feels futile. I come to you today not with a message of positives or negatives. I will not preach destruction nor complete security of the future but instead I ask that you seek to hear the feeling I am writing of. What does it feel like, to you all, to know that the earth you are passing down for us to watch over, is dangerously over polluted, overpopulated and managed without care for the people that live here? What is the feeling of loving the world around you, and then watching others see money where you see flowers? See oil and industry where you see arctic and sea life? For me, it hurts beyond what I can describe in these words. For this reason I ask you all to support the Pine Tree Amendment. There is so much community support for the PTA it's truly incredible to watch. We need the PTA to lay the foundation on which real climate action can happen. I am relying on your ability to work together to ensure that we all have the right to the basic necessities in life. Clean air, clean water, and a clean environment in Maine.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lily West  
Age 17