

Abby Cadorette
PTA
LD 928

Mar 21, 2023

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

From: Abby Cadorette

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 Abby Cadorette. I live in Old Town and attend the University of Maine in Orono. I am writing as a student, activist, and concerned citizen to urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 928.

I grew up just down the river from the University of Maine, in Bangor. As a kid, I loved exploring the outdoors, and that quite frankly is something Maine is known for. Maine holds such a special place in my heart and is where I see myself living in the future. However, there needs to be a proposed amendment to the Maine State constitution securing these rights to all people of Maine, regardless of race, ethnicity or income.

All Mainers deserve the right to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment, and that is exactly what the PTA is aiming to fix.

By adding this amendment to Maine's State constitution, we would be securing these rights previously listed above, for future generations. Laws are able to be undone, but the Constitution is permanent.

The PTA will also strengthen environmental justice in the state by ensuring all people, regardless of race, ethnicity or income, have the same rights to clean water and air and healthy environments. All government officials would be held responsible to protect all communities equitably.

Other states like Pennsylvania, Montana and recently New York have passed a similar kind of environmental amendment. PA & MT amendments are being used to advance drinking water protections from PFAS contamination, which is increasingly becoming a problem here in Maine, and prevents state legislators from taking environmental protection funds. They are also mandating consideration of impacts before allowing environmentally damaging operations to persist and are securing cleanup of toxic contamination, just to name a few.

The Pine Tree Amendment would ensure the right to clean air and water and a healthy environment to all communities and future generations of Maine. This not only helps preserve the environment of a place I hold so dear to my heart, but also preserves the wellbeing of my loved ones and my community members.

Respectfully submitted,
Abby Cadorette