

Hello Senator Lawrence, Representative Ziegler and EUT Committee Members,

My name is Will Cunningham, I have lived in Portland Maine my whole life and attend college at UMaine in Orono. I am writing to testify in support of LD 1111 “An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreement for Large-Scale Water Extraction”.

Fresh water is a resource that is absolutely, inarguably necessary for life. In this world where the rapidly changing climate is bringing instability to our access to fresh water, the responsibility we have as Maine residents to practice good stewardship of this increasingly rare resource is steadily growing. A mechanism such as LD 1111 would help ensure that responsible stewardship of our available water is practiced properly. Contracts that last for long periods of time with no change are inflexible and limit Maine's ability to practice community resiliency. The permit length proposed by this bill would allow for contracts to be reevaluated based on the ever changing factors of our climate, encouraging a more responsible relationship between the contracting parties.

The parties most affected by the bottled water industry are those who depend on the water source being siphoned and shipped away. It is only common sense to give those affected more control over the resources they depend on to survive. By engaging municipalities that are accountable to locals, this bill would increase our representation and reduce the power of outside influences on our livelihoods.

Thank you,
Will Cunningham