

Andrew Dalrymple
Monhegan
LD 380

I, Andrew Dalrymple, Second Assessor for Monhegan Plantation, testify in favor of LD 380.

I have worked for the Monhegan Water Company for over 5 years, assisting in seasonal operations, collecting and submitting water samples to the DWP, and writing grants and managing projects to help protect Monhegan's natural ground water supply and distribution system from the impacts of rising sea levels.

The purpose of this Bill originates from within the Monhegan Water Company Board and a motion passed unanimously at a meeting of the Water Company Board of Directors on January 23, 2023 to move forward with drafting the language for LD 380.

Since the Water Co. exists as a private corporation with 100% of it's shares owned by the Plantation, the dissolution of the Water Co. and transfer of the Water Co.'s assets to the Plantation to be managed as a Municipal Department makes practical sense for several reasons, and will not negatively impact any share holders or annual operations.

The Transfer will allow for the public water supply operations and administration to proceed with greater levels of efficiency and transparency since the Board of Assessors and Plantation officials will be the primary managers of the Water Department budgeting, spending, billing, and potential grant related funding sourcing. Since the Board of Assessors meets monthly, water quality testing results can be presented publicly on a more routine basis, resulting in a broader scope of transparency between water supply operations and public consumers.

The dissolution of the Monhegan Water Company and the transfer of its assets to the Plantation was brought forth to the Monhegan Plantation registered voters at the annual Town Meeting on April 8th, which was publicly posted in line with State requirements for holding municipal meetings, in the form of a warrant article. The article passed after discussion confirming that the legislation action would be followed through with and that Plantation spending related to water supply maintenance and operations would not need to be raised through taxation since the transfer includes the transfer of the existing money in the Water Company checking account.

Thank you