

Testimony in Support of LD 1473
“An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources”

Good afternoon Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment & Natural Resources. My name is Scott Harriman, I live in Lewiston, and I am testifying in support of LD 1473, “An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources.”

Here in Lewiston and Auburn, we have been drawing our drinking water from Lake Auburn (formerly Wilson Pond) for close to 150 years. Due to the extraordinary efforts that have been made over the decades to protect the quality of the lake, this water has been granted a filtration waiver from the EPA. Only a few dozen such waivers have been granted nationwide.

What this means for the ratepayers of Lewiston and Auburn is that they have not had to incur the huge expense of building and maintaining a water filtration plant. Any increased development in the lake’s watershed will threaten the status of the filtration waiver, leading to the need for a treatment plant.

While I am fully in support of dramatically increasing the inadequate number of housing units all over Maine, critical resources like our drinking water cannot be compromised. We can still build plenty of homes in areas that do not drain into and threaten the quality of water bodies like Lake Auburn.

Please help protect our drinking water and vote Ought To Pass on LD 1473. Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

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