



# Maine Conservation Voters

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**Testimony in Support of LD210, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs, my name is Cathy Breen, and I am the Director of Government Affairs with Maine Conservation Voters (MCV). MCV is building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy. I am here to testify in support of specific parts of LD210, Governor Mill's proposed biennial budget.

In particular, MCV supports the efforts of the Department of Environmental Protection and its work in safeguarding Maine's air, land and surface waters. I'd like to highlight several initiatives that will help the Department carry out some of its core statutory obligations:

1. In response to long waiting times for land use permit reviews and licensing activities, there are several new positions and maintenance of limited period positions. These positions will be funded through licensing fees (Other Special Revenues, not General Fund). These initiatives will give the Department more capacity to respond to the regulated community in a more timely manner. (Maine Environmental Protection Fund, 0421, Part A, pps. 258-260)
2. Establishment of one Environmental Specialist III position and one Environmental Specialist IV position to address Prevention of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution. These positions are supported by General Fund dollars pursuant to 2023 statute. In addition, there are multiple initiatives adding equipment to the DEP, funded through Other Special Revenues. It's important that the Department has the equipment it needs to fulfill its obligations. (Remediation and Waste Management Fund, 0247, Part A p. 262-264).
3. Language Part MM which will assist the Board of Environmental Protection in meeting its obligations (Language section p. 86).
4. Language Part NN makes a one-time transfer of OSR and General Funds to support capital expenditures in the Ground and Surface Water Clean-Up and Response Fund (Language section p. 87).

In addition to supporting these initiatives in the DEP, Maine Conservation Voters would like to go on record in support of two language sections in this budget proposal that make changes in the organization of certain executive branch activities, specifically the creation of the Department of Energy Resources (Language Part LL) and Maine Office of Community Affairs (Language part D). MCV supports these changes because we believe they will improve planning and implementing Maine's transition off of fossil fuels and onto clean, renewable energy, and assist Maine communities in recovering from and adapting to severe weather events that are predicted in our future.

Thank you for your consideration. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

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LD 210