
To: Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and
Members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and
Health and Human Services

From: Bradley Sawyer, Deputy Director

Date: February 24, 2025

Re: In Support of the Maine Drinking Water Program, L.D. 210

On behalf of the Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) and the member utilities we represent, we write to express our strong support for continued funding for the Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP). The DWP plays a critical role in ensuring that Maine's drinking water utilities, particularly those in rural communities, have access to the resources, technical assistance, and regulatory oversight necessary to provide safe and reliable drinking water to residents across the state.

Maine's rural water utilities rely heavily on the expertise and services provided by the DWP to maintain compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations. The technical support, training, and financial assistance facilitated through the DWP help our members address infrastructure challenges, implement system improvements, and respond effectively to emerging water quality concerns. Without sufficient funding, DWP's ability to assist Maine's utilities and protect public health would be significantly diminished.

In particular, we urge your support for the positions within the Drinking Water Program that are funded through federal programs. These positions are vital to the continued operation and effectiveness of the DWP, enabling it to leverage federal funding to support Maine's water utilities in meeting regulatory requirements and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our drinking water infrastructure. Without these federally funded positions, the capacity of the DWP to provide essential services to Maine's communities would be severely compromised.

We recognize and appreciate the state's commitment to ensuring safe drinking water for all Mainers and respectfully request your support for sustained funding for the Maine Drinking Water Program. Continued investment in the DWP is not only an investment in public health and environmental protection but also in the economic vitality and resilience of Maine's rural communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We welcome any opportunity to discuss this matter further and look forward to your continued support for Maine's drinking water utilities.