

Jill Saxby  
Cape Elizabeth  
LD 646

Dear Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,  
My name is Rev. Jill Saxby. I have lived in Maine for 38 years, including thirty-five years in Cape Elizabeth a few blocks from the ocean, and three years in Harrison in a house on Long Lake. I am writing to express my strong support for LD 646 because Maine's waters—and the industries and communities that rely on them—are at risk from stormwater pollution.

As a coastal resident, and frequent visitor to many of our state parks, I cherish our bays, lakes and rivers as a vital part of what makes Maine not only a unique and beautiful place to live, but a place where the fishing and tourist industries are vital parts of our economy and way of life. A few years ago, I spent a summer working as a greeter at Ft. Williams in Cape Elizabeth, welcoming people from nearly every state and many foreign countries who were visiting Maine for the first time. I had the pleasure of standing with some visitors as they had their first-ever glimpse of an ocean and of the magnificent Maine coastline. Even after living here most of my adult life, I've never stopped appreciating what we have here, how essential clean and healthy bodies of water are to what makes Maine what it is.

As a person who swims with my grandchildren in Long Lake, Range Pond and Sebago Lake and in Casco Bay every summer, and who walks at Crescent Beach State Park several times a week year round, I am aware that stormwater runoff impacts our waters, sometimes closing beaches and clam flats and disfiguring our public spaces with pollution. Because I've walked the same beach for over three decades, it's obvious to me how the intensity and impact of storm weather events in Maine is increasing.

Creating a study commission to better understand how chemicals, bacteria, animal waste and other pollution are being carried by these storms into our precious Maine waters seems like a common sense approach to me. Any future stormwater management policies ought to be based on the best factual, science-based picture we can assemble of what's actually happening now, and what we need to do to address it.

We need to develop informed, effective strategies to prevent stormwater pollution before it does more harm. Addressing this issue now will save money in the long run—preventing pollution is far more cost-effective than trying to restore damaged waters.

I urge you to support LD 646 and take action to protect Maine's waters for future generations. Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Sincerely,