

April 29 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of this Committee:

My name is Diane Oltarzewski (resident of Belfast) and I am writing to urge you to vote Ought to Pass for LD 1696 Resolve, to Study Maine's Absolute Dominion and Beneficial Use Laws Relating to Water Rights.

There can be no question that in today's world, with the unpredictability of the effects of climate change, our natural resources, especially water, can no longer be taken for granted. The concept of Absolute Dominion accorded to a single landowner no longer has relevance or validity in our world.

We need to support the work of far-seeing Representatives of the people, who will objectively examine all the forces in play, and craft a framework of water use guidelines that ensures the greatest good for the greatest number of Mainers.

Please vote ought to pass!

Thank you.