

Eileen Wolper
Belfast
LD 1696

Hello Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and ENR Committee Members,
My name is Eileen Wolper, I live in Belfast, ME and I am testifying in STRONG support of LD 1696 "Resolve, to Study Maine's Absolute Dominion and Beneficial Use Laws Relating to Water Rights".

Absolute Dominion is outdated and leaves Maine citizens compromised and in danger. I urge you to increase groundwater protections and modernize our groundwater laws. I have seen, in Belfast, a threat by a corporation, whose extremely high water demands would take precedence over our community's needs. Outrageous. Luckily, this company is gone.

Maintaining this Absolute Dominion legal doctrine regarding Water creates a vulnerability with domestic water users, small farmers, and most businesses that need a consistent water supply. With a rise in water privatization being pushed by Wall Street to replace locally owned and managed water systems for and by the public, and with water exports expanding significantly over the past decade, we are due to update the law to protect our future use. Additionally there is an increase of high water use industries taking interest in Maine now that groundwater is being depleted in other parts of the country.

I believe it is a matter of National Security, a loophole to be exploited by Corporations. It needs to be updated, and soon.

Thank you,
Eileen Wolper
Belfast, Maine