

Greetings Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and ENR Committee Members,

My name is Laurie LaMountain, I live in Denmark, Maine, 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".

I feel strongly that when the Absolute Dominion Rule was put into effect as a means of resolving water right disputes, the authors could not have envisioned a time when technology would allow a single entity to withdraw 432,000 gallons of water from one source on a daily basis, which is what is Poland Spring, a brand of Primo Water and Blue Triton Brands, has been doing in Denmark, Maine, since 2012.

In nearby Fryeburg, Maine, they are allowed to withdraw 603,000 gallons of water per day. The combined daily withdrawal from just these two neighboring towns is over one million gallons per day.

Times have changed. Technology has advanced dramatically since the 1800s. As has climate change. We need Maine laws that take these changes into account. I hope you will consider the advances of time, technology, and a changing climate in your consideration of LD 1696.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie LaMountain
Denmark, Maine

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LD 1696

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