

## Testimony in support of L.D. 928

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My name is John M. Glowa, Sr. I live in South China. I was a Democratic candidate for governor in 2022 and I am speaking today in support of L.D. 928. I am an environmentalist and a wildlife activist. I was employed by the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection for nearly thirty years and I am the founder and president of The Maine Wolf Coalition, Inc.

My first remarks concern the environment. As someone who was on the inside, I will say that many decisions, actions and inactions by the Maine DEP are based not on what is best for the environment and the people of Maine, but on what is politically expedient. This political expedience endangers the lives of Maine people and harms the environment. The Maine DEP is one reason why, unfortunately, this constitutional amendment is so sorely needed.

On the wildlife side, I have advocated for more than fifty years for wildlife management policies that put the ecosystem and the resource first. For the last thirty years, I have worked for natural wolf recovery in Maine to help to restore the ecosystem. I have learned that the people of Maine have no legal right to challenge in a court of law the actions and inactions of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. I have taken the state to court several times because of its mis-management of the moose herd and violations of its statutory mandates. Even though Maine's fish and wildlife resources belong to ALL of the people of Maine in accordance with the Public Trust Doctrine, under current law, the people of Maine have no legal standing to challenge the state government in matters related to fish and wildlife management. This not democracy. This is fascism posing as democracy.

This constitutional amendment will help to right many wrongs. For example, Maine law deliberately does not require that science even be considered by the state in its management of fish and wildlife. Maine law also does not require that all Mainers be given a seat at the fish and wildlife table. A healthy environment and ecosystem are our God given rights. Please affirm these rights by voting in support of L.D. 928. Thank you.