

Testimony in support of LD 1473  
An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources  
Public hearing date May 1, 2023

Dear Senate Chair Brenner, House Chair Gramlich, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Michael Dixon and I am speaking on behalf of myself and my wife, Carmen Dufresne. Carmen is the youngest daughter of Armand Dufresne, the late chief justice of the Maine Supreme Court. She is mostly retired after a 37 year career as an elementary school teacher in Lewiston, ME, a career in which she received recognition for her work on diversity and inclusion. Since retiring, she has regularly been a poll worker in Auburn during elections. Best of all, she gave me two wonderful daughters, who were educated locally, and who as adults continue to reside and work in Maine.

In comparison to Carmen, my own background and accomplishments are much more modest, but I will mention that I have served on committees charged with updating Comprehensive Plans and on Zoning Boards of Appeal on both sides of the Androscoggin River, and also that I spent many years as a board member, treasurer, and newsletter editor for the Taylor Pond Association.

Carmen and I appreciate the efforts of Senator Peggy Rotundo in crafting this bill, and wish to also thank the many State Senators and Representatives who have signed on as co-sponsors. We strongly support the concept of providing special consideration to protecting Maine's unfiltered drinking water sources, which include Lake Auburn, a major drinking water source

for several communities in our area. Safe and affordable drinking water is a blessing we have in Maine, and the importance of conserving this resource for current and future generations of Mainers cannot be overstated. LD 1473 will accomplish this

Carmen and I also believe in the importance of using scientific knowledge to inform public policy. We wonder if it might make sense for the water scientists at Maine's Department of Environmental Protection to periodically collect data on how each of the great ponds covered by 1473 is doing, and to prepare reports to alert the Environment and Natural Resources Committee of any developing issues for each of these public water sources.

Thank you for considering our testimony and for your service to the State of Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dixon

Carmen Dufresne

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