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Testimony of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

In support of LD 2036, *An Act to Remove the Exemption for Certain Roadside Springs from Regulation as Public Water Systems in the Laws Regarding Water for Human Consumption*

Sponsor: Senator Henry Ingwersen
Hearing Date: January 9, 2024

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Amy Lachance, and I serve as the Drinking Water Program Manager within the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) in the Department of Health and Human Services. I am here today to testify in support of LD 2036, *An Act to Remove the Exemption for Certain Roadside Springs from Regulation as Public Water Systems in the Laws Regarding Water for Human Consumption*.

This bill proposed by the Department repeals the definition of "roadside spring" in the law governing water for human consumption and the provision exempting certain roadside springs from regulation as public water systems. Currently under Maine law, a roadside spring is exempted from regulation as a Public Water System (PWS) if it does not charge for water or post signs. This contradicts the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which requires all entities supplying water to more than 25 people for more than 60 days per year to be regulated as PWSs, regardless of whether they charge for water or post signs. There would be no programmatic or fiscal impact from this change, as Maine CDC regulates three roadside springs as PWSs, and the same three springs would be regulated if this bill passes. These springs were surveyed previously and determined to have high enough use, meeting the threshold to qualify as a PWS.

The Maine CDC recommends passage of this bill in order to resolve the discrepancy between the federal definition of a Public Water System (PWS) and the state definition. This will allow the Maine CDC to continue to administer the federal Safe Drinking Water Act as a primacy agency, since Maine's regulations will then be at least as stringent as the federal regulations.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have and to make myself available for questions at the work session.