



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1440  
MAINE RELAY 711

**Edward J. Polewarczyk**

67 Youngs Point Road  
Wiscasset, ME 04578  
Edward.Polewarczyk@legislature.maine.gov  
Cell: (207) 350-5911

***Testimony of Representative Edward Polewarczyk in support of  
LD 2104, An Act to Amend the Charter of the Wiscasset Water District  
Before the Committee On Energy, Utilities and Technology***

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, I am Representative Edward Polewarczyk from Wiscasset. I am here today to testify in favor of LD 2104, An Act to Amend the Charter of the Wiscasset Water District.

The Wiscasset Water Company was created in 1880. In 1984, the Charter was approved by the 111th Legislature (LD2326) forming the Wiscasset Water District, a Quasi-municipal nonprofit corporation. Its territory was limited to the Town of Wiscasset. In 1987, its territory was expanded to include parts of Edgecomb and Woolwich.

The Wiscasset Water District currently provides safe drinking water to Wiscasset (~ 25% of the residences, mostly in the Village area), to Woolwich (~ 1.2% of the residences bordering Wiscasset) and to Edgecomb (less than 1% of the residences, primarily those on Davis Island).

Nequasset Lake in Woolwich is the source of water for both the Wiscasset Water District and the Bath Water District. Although designed for 100 years most of the system is less than 50 years old. The Wiscasset Water District is a well run utility managed by an outstanding superintendent.

This amendment to the Wiscasset Water District charter would increase its operations to include sewer service in addition to its current water service, and increase its territory to include Edgecomb in addition to its existing customers in Wiscasset and Woolwich.

Why is this change necessary? As our communities grow, safe drinking water and sewage disposal become a problem. Some residential wells have gone dry during recent summer months. Septic systems and their accompanying leach fields will begin to restrict the construction of affordable housing.

The Wiscasset Sewer Department is facing major maintenance issues with an aging system and a sewer treatment plant relocation required by the Department of Environmental Protection. Some residents of Edgecomb are experiencing access to water and water quality issues.

It is simply a matter of demand, as our population grows demand will exceed existing system limits. The real challenge is to get ahead of the future demand. Infrastructure takes forever.

This charter change is simply enabling language; it lays the groundwork for further growth. It allows the District, working with the surrounding communities in the area, to begin developing a plan for water delivery and sewage disposal systems for the future. A referendum is required in each of the towns for this legislation to become effective. It also provides for representation of Edgecomb on the district's board of trustees once service is expanded to include 1/3 of the legal residents of Edgecomb.

The Wiscasset Water District is looking to the future to provide these services to the residents of our communities. They are prevented from doing that due to their current charter.