



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Dan Ankeles
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Presenting LD 75, An Act To Update Funding for the Board of Environmental Protection

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and fellow members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am Representative Dan Ankeles, and I serve House District 100, a central slice of Brunswick that includes our downtown, Bowdoin College, the former naval airbase, Mere Point, Maquoit Bay and the Mere Brook Watershed. It's an honor to bring you **LD 75, An Act To Update Funding for the Board of Environmental Protection**, a measure submitted on behalf of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Board of Environmental Protection.

This bill increases from \$325,000 annually to \$450,000 annually the cap on the amount that may be transferred to the Board of Environmental Protection Fund from the Maine Environmental Protection Fund, the Maine Ground and Surface Waters Clean-up and Response Fund, the Maine Hazardous Waste Fund and the Uncontrolled Sites Fund.

Many of you have seen legislation of this nature before. You have an entity like the Board whose needs have grown. Funding is available, but there is a fixed cap in statute that prevents the Board from making use of all the resources intended for it. The result is that the only way the Board can move forward is through the actions of this committee and eventually the full Legislature.

As of this writing, there is no fiscal analysis available online for me to refer to. But as you can see from the bill summary, the Board is drawing its funding from Other Special Revenue accounts, or OSRs, and not the General Fund.

I'll leave it to the Board to explain why they feel they need this statutory transfer limit increased at this moment, but I think we would all have to be truly heartless monsters to say no to Bob Duchesne. In all seriousness, I would make the case to my fellow committee members that we on both sides of the aisle should value the Board of Environmental Protection because of the way it brings a broader range of perspectives to DEP's decision making process. This is especially important in a policy area where regulations have a complex set of consequences and where the environment itself is also incredibly complex.



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I am happy to attempt to answer questions, but I hope the committee will see the wisdom of deferring them to representatives from the Board and/or the Department. Thank you for listening, and I'll look forward to figuring out the next steps with you all at our work session.