



Holly Stover

71 Dover Rd.

Boothbay, ME 04537

Phone: (207) 633-5979

Holly.Stover@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

March 4, 2025

Testimony of Rep. Holly B. Stover presenting

LD 293, An Act to Eliminate the Debt Limit of the Boothbay Region Water District

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Good afternoon, Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. I am Representative Holly Stover and I serve House District 48 and the communities of Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Edgecomb, South Bristol, Southport, and Westport Island. I am here today to present **LD 293, An Act to Eliminate the Debt Limit of the Boothbay Region Water District.**

The goal of this bill is to ensure that the Boothbay Region Water District, which I am a Trustee of, is able to borrow up to the debt limit of \$ 19 million as approved by local voters in 2023. I have attached an amendment to this testimony that better reflects that goal. The amendment, which was also emailed to the "Interested Parties" distribution list yesterday, simply affirms the results of that local referendum by increasing the debt limit to the amount approved by voters.

Prior to the 2023 referendum, the Water District's debt limit had not been increased since it was originally set in 2001. As we all know, costs have gone up significantly in the more than two decades since, and our local infrastructure not only requires routine investments but also increasingly faces other pressures, such as damage from extreme weather events. For example, the district is currently working to address damage to water mains from the January 2024 storms and to protect our infrastructure from damage from similar weather events in the future.

I hope you will agree that this is a straightforward bill and simply honors the will of the voters in Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor and Southport. I ask you to please support the bill and the proposed amendment.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have for me.