



Solutions for a
Toxic-Free Tomorrow

Testimony of Sarah Woodbury, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, Defend Our Health
In Support of LD 757, "Resolve, to Study and Oversee Water in the State of Maine"
Before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee
April 29, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Sarah Woodbury. I am the vice president of policy and advocacy for Defend Our Health. Defend Our Health's mission is to make sure that everyone has equal access to safe food and drinking water, healthy homes and products that are toxic-free and climate friendly. I am here to testify in support of LD 757, "Resolve, to Study and Oversee Water in the State of Maine."

Water is one of Maine's most precious natural resources. It sustains our communities, drives our economy, supports agriculture, and forms a foundation of our identity as a state known for clean, abundant natural beauty. Yet we are at a critical juncture. Increasing demands on water use—from commercial extraction and agriculture to the growing threats posed by contamination, climate change, and drought—require thoughtful, coordinated, and science-based solutions.

By establishing a diverse and well-balanced commission of legislators, tribal leaders, public and private stakeholders, scientists, and legal experts, this resolve recognizes the importance of the issue to a broad swath of Mainers. This approach ensures that the commission's work reflects

Of particular interest to us are the requirements that the commission consider public access to information about water. Both the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health and Human Services have information about water, including drinking water, on their websites. But it is sometimes hard to find and confusing. Recommendations from the commission on how to make this information more accessible to the public would be particularly helpful.

We also appreciate the requirement that the commission look at contaminants such as PFAS and others that threaten the safety of our drinking water. Maine is dealing with several rural residential well PFAS hot spots and some public water systems are also above the recommended standard for PFAS in drinking water. Taking these issues into account while looking at the future of access to water are incredibly important.

Ensuring that all Mainers have clean, safe, and accessible drinking water, now and for future generations, is not only an environmental responsibility but a matter of public health and justice. We urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 757.