



# Maine Conservation Voters

*Inform. Vote. Protect.*

Testimony of Sarah Woodbury, Legislative Director, Maine Conservation Voters

In Support of LD 2070

*“An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands”*

Before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

February 11, 2026

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Sarah Woodbury and I'm the new Legislative Director at Maine Conservation Voters. MCV is a statewide non-profit organization with 13,000 members and supporters building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy. I am here to testify in support of LD 2070 *“An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands”*.

Wetlands are among Maine's most valuable natural resources. They protect our communities from flooding, filter pollutants from our drinking water, support fisheries and wildlife, and help buffer the impacts of climate change. From inland marshes and forested wetlands to coastal systems that protect our working waterfronts, these ecosystems are essential to Maine's economy, environment, and way of life. We should be doing all we can to protect these vital resources including prohibiting landfill expansion into wetland areas.

Landfills, while necessary, should not be allowed to be expanded into wetlands. Landfills are full of toxic materials that could potentially contaminate nearby wetlands. Landfill leachate, which is the liquid runoff from landfills, contains contaminants such as lead, mercury, toluene, phthalates, and PFAS. All of which are harmful to human health and could end up in our waterways, including drinking water, if we allow landfills to encroach upon wetlands. We only have to look at the PFAS contamination issues impacting those around the Juniper Ridge Landfill to know that communities around landfills end up with health and environmental impacts from landfills. And toxics aren't

the only concern. We also have to worry about materials such as plastic from landfills ending up in the wetlands. Plastic, which can take decades to degrade, can alter the natural habitat, causing harms to plants and wildlife.

In recent years, Maine has experienced more frequent and severe storms, rising sea levels, and increased flood damage. By absorbing stormwater and slowing erosion, healthy wetlands are an important tool to help address these challenges. We should be doing all that we can to make sure that these delicate ecosystems are protected. Therefore we urge the committee to vote "ought to pass" on LD 2070.