

March 6, 2021

RE: Testimony in Support of LD 489 (SP196) - RESOLUTION, Proposing and Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment

Dear Chairs Brenner and Tucker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Jennifer Armstrong. I am a resident of Kennebunkport, a business owner, and a member of the Planeteers of Southern Maine, a grassroots environmental activism group located in the Kennebunks. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support LD 489 (SP196) - RESOLUTION, Proposing and Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment. I support this amendment to our state constitution wholeheartedly. I am passionate about protecting the environmental rights of the people of Maine today, as well as those of generations to follow.

An Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to protect the rights to clean water, air, and a healthy environment will provide a long overdue protection of the very things that keep us healthy and alive as human beings on this planet. It will enable our dedicated lawmakers to view each and every issue through a lens of environmental justice, and will ensure that this generation leaves behind a healthy and safe environment for the generations of the future to thrive in.

As an avid outdoor enthusiast and active community member, I look forward to a day when one of the main principles of our State Constitution is to do no harm- environmentally or otherwise.

Maine has the opportunity to set an example as an environmental leader. We are in the position to join states like Pennsylvania and Montana, who have already passed this kind of environmental amendment as well as the eleven other states of our union with active efforts to pass similar environmental rights amendments. I believe it is time for us to rise to the challenge of assuaging the environmental crises of our times.

I urge you to consider the present and long term effects of your support of this bold and timely amendment to the Constitution of the State of Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Armstrong
Kennebunkport, ME