

TESTIMONY OF NOA LUNA BADER

**LD 489—Ought to Pass**

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment**

Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

March 8, 2021

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Committee, greetings. My name is Noa Bader, and I am here to testify in support of amending the Maine Constitution to guarantee the right to a healthy environment.

I am living the existential experience of youth at this moment. It is so easy to feel hopeless. I have quite a few friends who have no hope for the future, and even I can feel tempted to walk through life lacking hope, like a well run dry... all positivity and optimism evaporated with that last drop of water. Life without hope is not a life worth living. We need hope and optimism, faith in ourselves, each other, and in our future, otherwise the point of living is lost. I want to know that the State of Maine recognizes my right to clean air, pure water and a healthy environment. Without these, I have no hope or trust in my future.

Action or inaction are choices we make. Each action has the ability to influence and encourage others to stand up to protect our air and water; and has an equal opportunity to normalize inaction, carelessness and lack of responsibility and accountability. “Will we give up out of hopelessness? Or will we persevere and try our utmost to fight for the protection of the environment.”

I refuse to give in to hopelessness. As a youth who cares deeply about the environment and equitable rights for all people, I feel a deep sense of responsibility to try my hardest to advance the ideals I declare as important. In Maine a large portion of our identity is built upon our deep care for the outdoors; forests, waterways, and ocean, and all Mainers deserve a right to enjoy the beauty of Maine’s outdoors, for generations to come. I intend to fight for the adoption of the



Pine Tree Amendment so that my future children and grandchildren are sure to be able to experience and benefit from Nature just as I and those before me have done.

I want the State of Maine to commit to the preservation and protection of the environment we rely on. This shared hope, and faith is what will bring us together, and it will be the binding agreement, encouraging us to fully commit ourselves, and become true stewards of the earth, together.

I believe The Pine Tree Amendment is a way to ensure our rights to a clean and healthy environment into the future. The upcoming generation has the opportunity to take full initiative and make environmental justice and climate policy our top priority and the Pine Tree Amendment would enable us to do so. If you adopt this legislation, you are giving us the hope we need. **You** have the opportunity and power to enact this amendment. **You** hold that responsibility to younger generations; to grant us **our** right to a future.

So I ask you to vote, Ought to Pass on LD 489.

Thank you.









