

Maggie Blake
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Testimony in Support of LD 489

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, Members of the Committee, my name is Maggie Blake. I am a Colby College student and I love Maine. Not being from Maine I have been able to truly appreciate how incredible and unique the state of Maine is, there is nowhere like it. The rocky shore of Stockton Springs, the white, snow-covered Rangeley lake, the breathtaking view off the top of Bald Mountain. Maine is the last of its kind. There is no other state with the breath of wild wonders, preserved and thriving. I am saddened by the development in my home state of Massachusetts. While not possessing the same beauty as Maine, the land is being overtaken with large warehouses, housing developments, and chain stores. This is a trend happening across the country. While you may assume that our environmental rights are protected, anyone I have asked about the subject has. They are not. There are no barriers preventing careless out-of-state corporations from tearing apart the natural beauty that holds this state so strong. The Pine Tree Amendment is not radical, it is not abstract. We are asking for simple protections, we should already have. Do your loved ones have a right to breathe clean air? Do your grandchildren have a right to be born into a world where they can have a glass of water? The Pine Tree Amendment allows us to defend the rights we should already have in the courtroom. There is no reason out-of-state corporations should have more of a say than the residents of Maine.

I am here because I am afraid. I love Maine's coast, I love the center of Maine that I currently call home, the beaches of Scarborough, the mountains of Western Maine. I don't want to imagine a world where I hike to the top of bald mountain to see factory smoke and deforestation. I want to be able to show my grandchildren the beautiful state I love so dearly, I don't want to have to explain the beauty that I experience so vividly every day. We have the power to protect our slice of the world. We can't control New York, we can't control Missispi or the federal government, but we can do our part to protect the beauty of our home. For all of the hardworking men and women in Maine. The guides, the servers, the skiers, the lobstermen and women, and all who depend on the Maine outdoors and all who love it. It is essential for our economy and it is essential for Mainers. I'm asking you to please seriously consider and vote to support LD 489. This is not an attack on industry, it is not overly vague. This is safeguarding the economy of Maine and our future, it is guaranteeing rights we all believe we have.

Thank you for your time.

-Maggie