



Senator Matthea Daughtry

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**Testimony by State Senator Matthea Daughtry on LD 489
RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to a
Healthy Environment**

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Monday, March 8, 2021

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

My name is Mattie Daughtry. I am the State Senator for Senate District #24, which includes the towns of Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, North Yarmouth, and Pownal. I am pleased to support LD 489, *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment*. LD 489 is also commonly known as the Pine Tree Amendment.

Here in Maine, our way of life is largely determined by our environment. Whether you're an avid outdoorsman or registered Maine guide, a local trail runner or just simply like to enjoy our natural resources, folks in Maine appreciate and rely on the outdoors.

In addition, our economy is largely dependent on natural resources including fisheries, forestry, agriculture and tourism associated with outdoor recreation. These industries are under the constant threat of climate change, which has dramatically altered the landscape of our economy and way of life in a variety of ways.

I'm proud of the fact that we have substantial environmental protection measures through sound, science-based public policy, but it's time to go a step further. LD 489, the Pine Tree Amendment, makes sure that the government of Maine upholds its commitment to protecting our basic rights to the outdoors, clean air and clean water by enshrining these rights into our Constitution.

No person in Maine, whether today or decades in the future, should have to question their right to a clean and healthy environment. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of this bill. I am happy to answer any questions.