

March 8, 2021

To Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee;

I wish to add my support for the LD 489 – Resolution; Pine Tree Amendment regarding environmental rights. I am a retired university Professor, from the University of New England (UNE), College of Osteopathic Medicine. I have had a lifelong love for the coast and woods of Maine, and I want to encourage each of you to protect our environment for current and future generations.

As a child, I sailed the coast of Maine with my family. This drew me to Maine where I attended Colby College, then spent the next 18 years working toward a means to work and live in Maine. My partner was faculty at U Maine at Farmington for 38 years, where we explored the western mountains, lakes and rivers. Since the 1990's we have continued our sailing explorations of the coast of Maine. What has been painfully apparent are the changes in the Gulf of Maine. There is plenty of scientific evidence of the adverse effects of climate change on our economy, but I am not an expert in this field and will differ to others to provide details. What has been obvious to my untrained eye is that indigenous mussels that were once plentiful, are no longer apparent along the coast. There are now blooms of jellyfish (which were also apparent in the polluted waters of Boston Harbor when I was growing up), and the presence of cetaceans has been severely reduced. Flooding is common along the coast and quite noticeable in Penobscot Bay (where we keep our boat in Belfast).

As an educator and biomedical researcher, I have had a professional interest in training/educating future healthcare providers, undergraduate and graduate student researchers, and professional scientists. In addition, UNE has a strong commitment to preserving our climate, and has developed an interdisciplinary program in Climate Change Studies. We all have one thing in common, the love of learning and a deep appreciation for the natural world.

I have tried to espouse the philosophy that embraces thinking about how my actions will affect the people and the planet, 7 generations from now. I encourage you to adopt a similar philosophy. This is based on the Iroquois peoples Seventh Generation Principle. With that foresight in mind, your support of the Pine Tree Amendment will guide us toward achieving a sustainable economy.

Thank you for providing me an opportunity to share my passion for our State's environmental health.

Sincerely,



Amy Davidoff, PhD  
Professor Emerita

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Vassalboro, ME