

Marty Fox  
Wiscasset

LD489 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine To Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment

Testimony March 8,2021 by Martin Fox Wiscasset, ME

Greetings Chairpersons Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, my Representative Jeffery Hanley and the rest of the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee for allowing me to testify on this very important legislation.

My name is Marty Fox and I live in the beautiful Town of Wiscasset.

My position on the Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment is Ought to Pass.

We all have something in common. We all appreciate all that Maine's Environment has to offer from hiking, hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, skiing, exploring the State and National Parks, or just taking a drive into a rural area of the State. I consider this bill as bipartisan, because it prevents governments authority to infringe on our rights to clean water, clean air and to a clean environment.

As a young boy, I remember exploring a narrow trail in Southeast Connecticut, which may have been an old Native American trail, and enjoying the smells of the earth, and thinking how generations before me probably used this path. This enjoyment extended to when I had a family and we explored nature's trails in New Hampshire, as well as visiting and tent camping in Acadia National Park, enjoying the beauty of nature.

After my step-daughter graduated from Bowdoin majoring in Environmental Studies, over 20 years ago, she worked as the Educational Director at Morris Farm (an educational farm in Wiscasset), and a few years later, she and her husband became the farm managers. A couple of years passed, and they wanted to buy land they could farm themselves. So we put our money where our mouths are, to help them and the environment by purchasing 130 acres and putting the land into Conservation Easement, to protect the land from development for generations to come. They farm sheep, chickens and goats, and grow vegetables, using the practice of silvopasture. This is the practice of integrating trees, forage, and the grazing of domestic animals in a mutually beneficial way for the environment. So we are doing our small part in protecting the environment, which is extremely important for the preservation of our land.

I do not know about you, but I would like to see Maine's air, water, and land be preserved for my grandchildren and their children and for generations to come. This is why I encourage you to vote ought to pass on this proposal.

I will be glad to answer questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.