

Perrin Milliken
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My name is Perrin Milliken and I am 20 years old. As a young Mainer I often find myself worrying about what the future holds. What will Maine look like when I am 50? When my child is growing up? When I think of Maine I picture expansive forests, beautiful coastline, and the communities of people that have lived and worked on the land and coast for their whole lives. I am scared because these things I love about Maine are already being destroyed, and they will continue to disappear due to development, over-exploitation, or climate change if Maine doesn't take a stand.

When I read the Pine Tree Amendment I was honestly confused that this wasn't already a right in our Constitution. Our environment gives us food, shelter, water, and materials, in other words, the necessities of life. In any society that cares about the people living in it, these basic needs should be a right.

If this amendment is not passed, Mainers will know exactly who is rooting against their health, happiness, and rights. The Maine legislature has an opportunity to defend its people against corporate interests or other threats to our home. Our government is accountable to its constituents, and I, a fellow Mainer, a human who walks, works, and studies on land that you have legislative power over, am asking you to pass this amendment.

Regardless of any party lines, one thing that we can all agree on is that our environment is vital to Maine's identity, and that everyone living here should be able to enjoy and live off this land freely. With environmental issues, change and destruction sometimes happens more slowly, and therefore is ignored as something to be dealt with "in the future". That future is now, and Maine needs to be a leader in protecting its people by protecting their right to a clean environment.