

Richard Nelson  
Friendship

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources-

Good morning, I'm Richard Nelson, speaking in favor of LD 489. Usually I stand here as that fisherman from Friendship, speaking of the fisheries or the effects that climate and greenhouse gases have on them and the world. But even though the lobster industry serves as a prime example that conservation go hand in hand with economic health, today it matters little if the speaker is a lobsterman, teacher, or even legislator. The issue at hand is so basic and is fundamentally shared between us, as humans, as is the air we suck into our lungs and the water that passes our lips. Each of us dependent on the life sustaining environment around us on this planet. Today this unquestionable relationship finds a bit of confusion when stated as a human right. We hear the calls for our "Right to health care," "Right to good paying jobs," "Paid time off from jobs," or even, "Rights to basic housing." As much as these calls are based on good concepts and intentions, some might wonder if people should ever have left the womb. The Pine Tree Amendment has no association with the precepts of "All about me," or "Have it all now," or with the politics of individual needs met by the efforts of others. On the contrary, it's about sharing, sharing the resources of this planet with all and sustaining it for future generations. Not to inhibit economic health now but to allow for its continued abundance. About recognizing our symbiotic relationship with our environment, simply -we take care of it, it takes care of us. I look at this amendment as a missing block in the foundation of Maine's Constitution, one that is needed to set a level with the desires of its citizens. An ideal not meant as an obstruction in our course, but as a navigational aid for our Government and Judiciary to maintain it. -Thank You

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