



15 University Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
207-623-9511

March 29, 2021

Honorable Stacy Brenner, Senate Chair  
Honorable Ralph Tucker, House Chair  
Joint Legislative Committee On Environment and Natural Resources  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 940 An Act To Establish Appliance Energy and Water Standards

Dear Senator Brenner and Representative Tucker:

The Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony neither for/nor against LD 940.

**About MWUA.** The Maine Water Utilities Association is a nonprofit association based in Augusta that provides support for water works professionals throughout the State of Maine in advocating for safe drinking water through educational and technical programming as well as advocacy on the local, state, and national level. The Association was formed in 1925 and counts approximately 109 water utilities in Maine as members.

**Discussion.** LD 940 seeks to establish appliance water standards based upon the standards established in the state of California. As an association representing water utilities in Maine, we provide the following information related to Maine water supplies. We hope this information is helpful in the Committee's deliberations on this bill.

First, it is important to understand the small percentage of water utilized by customers of water utilities in Maine relative to the amount of water in Maine. Based upon information from the Maine Geological Survey and the US Geological Survey, approximately 42 inches of rain falls on the State of Maine each year. This equals about 24 trillion gallons of water annually. By contrast, Maine water utilities use approximately 31 billion gallons or 0.13 percent of all the water that falls on the State of Maine.

Second, decreases in industrial water usage in Maine over the past 40 years has resulted in a significant decrease in water usage for many water utilities. Additionally, more efficient water fixtures already on the market have contributed to a steady decline in average residential water usage. Consequently, most water utilities have excess water capacity.

As an example, the Kennebec Water District was producing an average of 7 to 8 million gallons per day in the mid-1990s. Due to reduction in demand from industrial users, the Kennebec Water District now produces less than 3 million gallons per day, a water use reduction of over 60 percent. During this time, the water supply available to the district has not decreased.

**Letter of MWUA re LD 940**

**March 29, 2021**

**Page 2**

**Conclusion.** As noted, we have no position on this bill, However, it is important to understand that Maine's water resource picture is significantly different than that of California. While California water utilities are frequently impacted by drought, water supply in Maine is generally abundant and only a handful of utilities in Maine are adversely affected by drought on an infrequent basis.

Yours for safe drinking water,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger Crouse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Roger Crouse,  
Legislative Committee Chair, Maine Water Utilities Association  
General Manager, Kennebec Water District

cc: Bruce Berger, Executive Director  
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, Legislative Counsel