

To: Senator Stacy Brenner, Representative Lori Gramlich, and honorable members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

From: Shirley Hager, Chesterville, ME, shirley.hager@maine.edu; 207-491-0982

RE: Support for LD 928, a Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment

Date: March 22, 2023

My name is Shirley Hager, I live in Chesterville, Maine, and I am writing to you as a concerned citizen to **urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 928.**

The time to act on climate change is now and, to this end, states and municipalities need every possible tool to use in this effort. We can no longer afford half-measures or to feel complacent because we live in a state currently with abundant water or a comparatively livable climate.

Every one of us, if we think we not impacted presently by climate change, soon will be. I just returned from a trip to North Carolina where I spent time helping my brother move away from the Intercoastal Waterway where he has lived for 49 years. Five years ago, his neighborhood was devastated by Hurricane Florence and, as soon as we were allowed, we went down to help him then too. If you have never experienced the aftermath of a hurricane and/or flooding, you cannot imagine the physical, emotional, and economic impact. To see entire neighborhoods with all their household belongings piled eight feet high on their sidewalks and people sitting on their porches with their heads in their hands...it is an image that never leaves you. Every one of us, or our friends and families, will soon be impacted in some way by what is coming if we do not act.

On Monday of this week, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report stating that we are already likely to miss the goal of limiting global warming to 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit above preindustrial temperatures. The report states that beyond that threshold, scientists have found, climate disasters will become so extreme that people cannot adapt: https://newspaper.pressherald.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=e4de6cf2-3230-44b5-8884-6dd6df434841

This same report states that **we already have the knowledge and the technology to avert this crisis, but governments are not acting quickly enough. Policy falls behind what is possible.** I urge you to use this opportunity to give Maine the policies and the tools that it needs to protect the health of our waters, air, land and wildlife that are essential to our well-being, indeed our existence. A constitutional amendment would ensure that all future legislatures, Governors, laws and permits would protect our precious environment and way of life here in Maine. **Please support LD 928.**

Thank you.