

**Senator Brenner, Representative Lori Gramlich, and Honorable members of the Committee-**

Good morning, I'm Richard Nelson and I am writing to urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 928. I have often stood before the committee 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 and protecting the environment 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 fundamentally basic and is shared between us, as humans beings, as is the air we breathe and the water we drink. Each of us is dependent on the life sustaining environment and resources 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 and protecting our symbiotic relationship with our environment, simply -we take care of it, it takes care of us. A lifetime working on Maine's waters has allowed me to witness this first hand. Should not those blessings be shared with our grandchildren and beyond? 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 chosen course, but as a navigational aid for our Government and Judiciary in maintaining it. -Thank You

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