

3/10/23

To: Environment and Natural Resources Committee

From: Waynflete Nature Club

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 928

We are writing as a student collective, the Waynflete Nature Club, to urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 928. This club is a voluntary group formed of students who are passionate about the conservation and enjoyment of nature. Our club sessions have included nature illustration, building bird boxes, collecting data as citizen scientists, putting up bird feeders, and engaging the Waynflete community with the environment around us.

As students who care deeply about Maine’s outdoor recreation opportunities, the natural resources that we thrive on, and the beauty of nature itself, we believe that the Pine Tree Amendment is essential. As young people who are eagerly anticipating for when we can be part of the civic process, we believe that our right to a clean and healthy environment should be as fundamental as our right to vote.

In a recent storm, tides in Portland, Maine surged over piers that have commercial, fishing, and residential use. The water inundated local businesses and inhibited members of Portland’s island communities from accessing necessities on the mainland. Storms such as these will only increase as the climate crisis worsens, endangering many Portland residents, including students who attend Waynflete school. Many youth in our community have also voiced dismay over the decline in snowfall, vernal pools for frogs, and breeding birds. These downwards trends can be seen even in our short lives. We believe that the Pine Tree Amendment would help focus and define state climate action because the Amendment ensures that all Mainers have the right to a clean and healthy environment for generations to come.

The Waynflete Nature Club hopes that you appreciate the nature of Maine as much as we do, and that you take appropriate measures to protect our present and future.

Respectfully submitted,
Waynflete Nature Club

Andrew Voorhees
Reed Robinson
Anna Siegel
Olivia Winn
Nate Shore
Casey Curtis
Nyssa Wilkinson
Cam Cameron

Anna Siegel
Yarmouth
LD 928

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