

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

To: Senator Stacy Brenner, Representative Lori Gramlich,  
and Honorable members of the committee  
From: Andrea Roth Kimmich  
Re: Testimony in Support of LD 928, a Resolution Proposing  
an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine  
to Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment

My name is Andrea Roth Kimmich. I am a NY transplant now living in Kennebunk.

I am writing as a retired educator, now realtor, and always a concerned citizen, to urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 928.

As a country, we pay much tribute to our established Rights - even those, like the Right to Bear Arms, which was an notably also an add-on to our constitution, and despite the fact it was an add-on under external threats quite different to those that exist today, and despite the fact that "arms" were a very different variety than those available on and off the market today. No matter all the shootings of civilians now, there is a prevailing sense that the RIGHT must be protected. What about the right to life-giving forces?

If threats had existed to our supply of clean air, soil and water "back in the day", I'm sure Madison, Hamilton, Franklin, et al. would've include our RIGHT TO A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL, CULTURAL AND HEALTHFUL QUALITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

With changes in our natural atmosphere, soils and water, many due to harmful methods used in a variety of manufacturing and production activity, but also, recently, due to climate change, we need desperately to protect life-giving and sustaining resources – those that might guarantee us clean air to breathe and water to drink. The Pine Tree Amendment is the best way to initiate that process and secure CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL, CULTURAL AND HEALTHFUL QUALITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

Pennsylvania, Montana and as of last year, New York, have already passed this kind of environmental amendment. PA & MT amendments are being used to prevent harmful gold mining operations; advance drinking water protections from PFAS contamination; prevent state legislators from raiding environmental protection funds; require consideration of science and impacts before permitting environmentally damaging operations; secure cleanup of toxic contamination, and more.

We here in Maine have just as much to protect, particularly too given that so many livelihoods and sources of pleasure rely on a clean, healthy environment.

I hope you will support LD 928 going forward, in order to secure for our state this BASIC RIGHT.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Roth Kimmich  
Kennebunk

andrea kimmich  
Kennebunk  
LD 928

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