



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Kristen Cloutier in support of
LD 1473, An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and esteemed colleagues of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Kristen Cloutier and I represent House District 94, which includes a portion of my hometown of Lewiston. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **LD 1473, An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources**.

This legislation was proposed as a means of protecting water sources like Lake Auburn—the sole public water source for nearly 39,000 people within the Lewiston-Auburn area, as well as portions of Poland. Along with providing fresh water to our communities, Lake Auburn is also a sport fishing destination to many across the state.

LD 1473 provides that lots or portions of lots that are within the watershed of a water source that have received a waiver from filtration pursuant to federal regulations, as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services, are exempt from certain restrictions related to affordable housing density, the allowed number of dwelling units and accessory dwelling units.

As you may know, the water of Lake Auburn is of high quality. So much so that it has received a rare filtration waiver from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, meaning that a more expensive means of filtration is unnecessary. Further, over the years, the water district has purchased nearly all the shorefront area surrounding Lake Auburn, which has ensured that our shoreline does not become overdeveloped and maintains its pristine condition.

I am a strong supporter of safe, affordable housing. I proudly supported the past efforts and recommendations put forth by the Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions. However, if Lake Auburn's shoreline were to be developed, it would be at the expense of our water quality and would not actually result in the desperately-needed affordable housing we're seeking in our community as shoreline property would surely be reserved for those exceeding Lewiston-Auburn's median income.

Protecting Lake Auburn is crucial. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Rep. Kristen S. Cloutier
Assistant House Majority Leader