

Christine Holden  
Lewiston  
LD 1473

May 1, 2023

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Christine Holden, and I live in Lewiston. I am submitting testimony in support of LD 1473, An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources, which will help protect Nine water sources in Maine, including Lake Auburn which provides pure drinking water to the communities of Lewiston, Auburn and Poland.

I moved to Lewiston in 1969, a time when the waters of the Androscoggin were still badly polluted, and I remember joining the first celebrations of Earth Day in April the following spring.

We have just celebrated over 50 years of Earth Day, and concerns about water quality continue: this bill focuses on a particular opportunity to preserve the quality and affordability of several sources of pure drinking water in Maine, including Lake Auburn.

The current purity of the lake, which is recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency's grant of a waiver against filtration, is under threat from proposed development in Auburn. The development has been justified by some as permitted by LD 2003, enacted last year—whose purpose was to increase the amount of affordable housing, which is certainly badly needed in Maine. But not at the expense of clean, affordable drinking water, which will likely be the case if the areas developed within the lake's watershed affect the quality of the water, thus requiring water system filtration and consequent higher prices for water for all consumers—owners and renters.

Voting this bill favorably out of your committee will help insure that taxpayers in communities across the state, from larger ones such as Portland, Lewiston-Auburn and Bangor-Brewer, to smaller ones such as Bar Harbor and Eagle Lake, continue to enjoy clean, affordable water.

I thank Senators Rotundo (Androscoggin), Baldacci (Penobscot) and Grohoski (Hancock) and Representatives Lee and Shaw from Auburn, and Cloutier, Craven, Abdi and Lajoie from Lewiston for their sponsorship, and ask the committee members for their consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely, Christine Holden  
183 Summer Street, Lewiston, Maine 04