

May 1, 2023

To: Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and Members of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 1473, An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources

Hope this finds you well. My name is Pamela Giasson Lynch and I grew up in Auburn, Maine. My mother lives in Auburn, and we've been a part of the Auburn community since the 1980's. I am writing on behalf of my family: some of whom still lives in Auburn, and my husband, kids, and I who come to spend time in Auburn. We are concerned citizens to urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1473.

Lake Auburn is beautiful. I grew up going to see Lake Auburn, and recognize after living in four other states and 1 other country that Maine is uniquely blessed with pristine and abundant drinking water. Of the 40 bodies of water in the country that have these waivers of water filtration, nine are located in Maine (almost 1 quarter)! Growing up in Maine I didn't realize how lucky I was. I want my kids to enjoy the beautiful landscapes and see the picturesque water of Maine as well.

Professionally, I am a chemical engineer, and have been practicing in the sustainability field for almost 20 years. I am Chief Operating Officer at Aclarity (<https://www.aclaritywater.com/>), and we develop and deploy water purification systems. Sustainable development is most successful when you listen to local community members and you work across diverse groups. Too many cities and towns are currently needing to install large waste water or water treatment facilities. I've recently seen costs anywhere from 1.5 to 15 million dollars. This would be detrimental to some of the local community members in Maine. The operating costs almost always come back to the tax payers. I believe in equitable access to clean water. It's documented Maine has some of the best drinking water in country.

- Lake George in NY was loved to death. Constructed \$24 million waste water treatment plant.
  - <https://waterkeeper.org/news/beauty-without-comparison-protecting-lake-georges-pristine-waters/>
  - <https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/wastewater-treatment-plant>
- Cambridge, MA recently paid \$1.5 million for Granular Activated Carbon water treatment filters.
  - <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2022/11/18/cambridge-returns-to-water-supply/>
- Farms across the country - \$2.5 million paid for clean water due to fertilizer run off.
  - <https://www.npr.org/2022/04/06/1091308630/contaminants-from-fertilizer-mean-some-rural-areas-must-pay-millions-for-clean-w>
- Las Vegas is prepared to pay Southern California \$750 million to drink water recycled from sewage. – There's always options.
  - <https://www.npr.org/2022/09/27/1125270299/amid-climate-change-water-managers-see-promise-in-recycled-wastewater>

Maine has naturally some of the best water in the world. Let's not change that. Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 1473.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of three stylized characters: a large 'P', a smaller 'G', and a cursive 'L'.

Pamela Giasson Lynch