

Testimony in Favor of L.D. 1473
An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources

Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

My name is Sarah Strong. I am a retired college teacher, living in Auburn, Maine. I want to urge Senate Chair Brenner, House Chair Gramlich and Members of the Joint Standing Committee to pass L.D. 1473, an Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources in Maine.

My present home is in Auburn within the watershed overlay of Lake Auburn, one of the several bodies of water in Maine with a waiver of filtration. Before moving here, I lived for over twenty years in Lewiston, one of the two other municipalities that, in addition to Auburn, rely on Lake Auburn as their source for municipal drinking water. As a ratepayer for the City of Lewiston's water, I learned to appreciate the water's affordability and its reliably high quality. Today excessive development around and upstream of the lake threatens the quality of the water and the loss of the filtration waiver. That loss would have a harsh impact, most likely causing the cost of water to more than double for those on city water. I don't want that to happen to my former neighbors, many of whom are on fixed income, and to the ratepayers in Auburn and Poland. Our communities have the right to affordable drinking water.

Living close to Lake Auburn now, I am unfortunately not on municipal water and need to rely on a well. But I am able to see the lake often, in all seasons. It is beautiful. However, in the past few years I've stood on the lake's shore in August and seen tiny balls of blue-green algae suspended in the water. Winter after winter I've observed the ever-shorter periods of the protective ice cover, and this spring after ice-out noted a greener cast to the water than the year before.

In her talk about Lake Auburn at the Great Falls Forum in March of 2019, Holly Ewing, Bates College Professor of Environmental Studies, a scientist who with her students has carried out a sustained study of the lake since 2008, pointed out the dangers posed to water purity by increasing levels of phosphorus and she emphasized the importance of the watershed in controlling those levels. "We've got to do something about the watershed," she warned, "we have to *really* do something."

L.D. 1473 will do something for the Lake Auburn watershed and for the watersheds of the other bodies of water with filter waivers in Maine. It is in step with the United Nations call for global water equity made last month in New York. It is important for this bill to go forward and pass into legislation.

Sarah Strong
auburn
LD 1473

Testimony in Favor of L.D. 1473

An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources
Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

My name is Sarah Strong. I am a retired college teacher, living in Auburn, Maine. I want to urge Senate Chair Brenner, House Chair Gramlich and Members of the Joint Standing Committee to pass L.D. 1473, an Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources in Maine.

My present home is in Auburn within the watershed overlay of Lake Auburn, one of the several bodies of water in Maine with a waiver of filtration. Before moving here, I lived for over twenty years in Lewiston, one of the two other municipalities that, in addition to Auburn, rely on Lake Auburn as their source for municipal drinking water. As a ratepayer for the City of Lewiston's water, I learned to appreciate the water's affordability and its reliably high quality. Today excessive development around and upstream of the lake threatens the quality of the water and the loss of the filtration waiver. That loss would have a harsh impact, most likely causing the cost of water to more than double for those on city water. I don't want that to happen to my former neighbors, many of whom are on fixed income, and to the ratepayers in Auburn and Poland. Our communities have the right to affordable drinking water.

Living close to Lake Auburn now, I am unfortunately not on municipal water and need to rely on a well. But I am able to see the lake often, in all seasons. It is beautiful. However, in the past few years I've stood on the lake's shore in August and seen tiny balls of blue-green algae suspended in the water. Winter after winter I've observed the ever-shorter periods of the protective ice cover, and this spring after ice-out noted a greener cast to the water than the year before.

In her talk about Lake Auburn at the Great Falls Forum in March of 2019, Holly Ewing, Bates College Professor of Environmental Studies, a scientist who with her students has carried out a sustained study of the lake since 2008, pointed out the dangers posed to water purity by increasing levels of phosphorus and she emphasized the importance of the watershed in controlling those levels. "We've got to do something about the watershed," she warned, "we have to really do something."

L.D. 1473 will do something for the Lake Auburn watershed and for the watersheds of the other bodies of water with filter waivers in Maine. It is in step with the United Nations call for global water equity made last month in New York. It is important for this bill to go forward and pass into legislation.