



May 12, 2023

Senator Stacy Brenner
Representative Lori Gramlich
Members of the Joint Standing Environment and Natural Resources
100 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland Support of LD 1909: "An Act to Modernize Maine's Beverage Container Redemption Law"

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Patsy Murphy, and I am the Executive Director of the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland (ARLGP).

The ARLGP, located in Westbrook, Maine provides temporary care and shelter for stray, abandoned, confiscated, and relinquished animals, and places as many pets as possible into responsible and caring homes. We also work to educate the community to end animal overpopulation and are tireless advocates for the humane treatment of all animals.

In 2022, the organization coordinated 3,693 adoptions of dogs, cats, bunnies, birds, and critters. Additionally, 417 active volunteers worked 26,932 volunteer hours, providing much-needed assistance to the staff and community. These volunteers are the life blood of our organization; as well as advocates for the CLYNK program. The ARLGP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and is funded through contributions from the public and private sector. We hold multiple fundraisers throughout the year and rely on the one-time and monthly contributions from our donors to continue our work.

We've been a CLYNK partner since the inception of the CLYNK to Give Partnership, we have leveraged a valuable revenue stream and engaged with our supporters in a meaningful way. More importantly, we have rallied our community to work together for fundraising and environmental stewardship.

CLYNK is the vehicle for uniting our animal loving community to support our life saving mission while positively impacting the environment. This lengthy partnership celebrates the relationship between a nonprofit and for-profit entity working together to achieve a shared goal.

So far, 1,148,893 containers have been donated through our partnership generating \$64,701.45. This significant amount of money is invaluable to our organization. It has allowed us to meet our fundraising goals so we may continue our life saving work of advocating and caring for homeless and displaced pets.

Working together, the ARLGP and CLYNK have made a positive impact on Maine's natural beauty by recycling discarded bottles and cans while giving pets a second chance and a new beginning.

With your support of LD 1909, CLYNK will be able to continue its important work in promoting recycling while also providing non-profits like the ARLGP with a means to meet or exceed our fundraising goals.

I thank the committee for its time, and I ask that you vote in favor of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patsy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a trailing flourish.

Patsy Murphy
Executive Director