

Brunswick Sewer District

10 PINE TREE ROAD

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FEBRUARY 18, 2021

GOOD MORNING SENATE CHAIR LAWRENCE AND REPRESENTATIVE CHAIR BERRY, AND MEMBERS OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY.

MY NAME IS LEONARD BLANCHETTE. I AM THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE BRUNSWICK SEWER DISTRICT AND A RESIDENT OF WINTHROP, MAINE.

I AM HERE TO TESTIFY IN FAVOR OF LD 256:

AN ACT TO ADJUST SEWER AND WASTEWATER LIEN FEES.

THE PROPOSAL OF LD 256 IS TO INCREASE FROM \$13.00 TO \$25.00 THE FLAT FEE PAID BY THE PROPERTY OWNER SERVED WITH A LIEN. THIS FEE IS IN ADDITION TO THE STATUTORY FEES ESTABLISHED IN TITLE 33, SECTION 751, PLUS THE COST OF CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED. MY SENSE IS THIS PROPOSED \$25.00 IS TO COVER AT LEAST SOME OF THE LABOR COST.

UPON CHECKING WITH STAFF, IT WAS NOTED THAT IT TAKES ON AVERAGE TWO (2) HOURS TO COMPLETE THE RESEARCH AND RECORDING OF A LIEN. BASED ON OUR PAY RATE PLUS OVERHEAD, THAT COST TO THE DISTRICT IS SOME \$120.

WHILE THIS INCREASE WILL NOT COVER ALL OF OUR LABOR COSTS, IT GOES A LONG WAY TOWARD LIMITING THE COST THAT IS PASSED ALONG TO ALL OF OUR OTHER RATEPAYERS.

AS SUCH, I URGE THE COMMITTEE TO VOTE AN OUGHT TO PASS RECOMMENDATION FOR LD 256.

THANK YOU.