



MAINE RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

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To: Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and Members of the Committee for Energy Utilities and Technology

From: Bradley Sawyer, Director of Government Affairs, MRWA

Date: February 18, 2021

Re: Testimony in Support of L.D. 256, An Act To Adjust Sewer and Wastewater Lien Fees

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and Members of the Joint Committee for Energy Utilities and Technology, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Brad Sawyer, and I am the Director of Government Affairs for the Maine Rural Water Association.

Maine Rural Water supports L.D. 256 as a measure that updates the amount of a lien fee charged to a wastewater or sewer customer. The cost of doing business has gone up, especially in regard to the cost of labor. Wastewater utilities do not take liens lightly but as public entities they are sometimes necessary to protect the investment and services of the community. When a utility is forced to place a lien on a customer, they are required to spend staff time on that process to ensure it is completed correctly and in accordance with state regulations. This legislation recognizes that effort, and the fact that the individual customer and not all ratepayers should bear the burden of that cost.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Bradley.Sawyer@MaineRWA.org or 207-737-9014.