

Corinna Water District
8 Levi Stewart Drive
Corinna, Maine 04928

February 9, 2021

Senator Mark Lawrence, Chair
Representative Seth Berry, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

RE: Support of LD 245: An Act Regarding Rural Water Districts

Sen. Lawrence, Representative Berry, and members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee:

My name is James Louder, chairman of the Corinna Water District. I have been trustee chairman for nearly 17 years. The Corinna Water District is a very small system, with only 28 customers, an annual revenue of approximately \$35,000, and extremely limited staffing. Our district has about a mile and a half of water main and serves only the downtown portion of the town of Corinna. Due to contamination of the ground water by the former Eastland Woolen Mill, the district was established in the late 1990's in order to provide potable water and fire protection to businesses and residences.

Our district only has three (3) trustees, each serving a 3 year term. Currently, in accordance with our charter, one trustee is appointed every year by the town's select board due to the expiration of a term. As is the case with several small water utilities, we have great difficulty finding citizens with an interest in serving on our board of trustees, and as a result once a person becomes a trustee he or she usually remains on the board for several terms. The problem is that there reaches a point where the 'old standbys' age out. We are facing that dilemma now, as are several other small districts throughout our state.

Since our charter only allows for three trustees, it is imperative that there always be a full board of trustees. Therefore, if nobody expresses an interest to be appointed at the end of a term...or if someone resigns in the middle of a term, there is a replacement dilemma that can only be resolved if the select board has the authority to appoint trustees whenever a vacancy occurs.

Therefore, I strongly recommend passage of LD 245 in order that small rural water district trustee boards of trustees can remain viable.

Sincerely,

James Louder,
Corinna Water District, Trustee Chair
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