

Sherri Billings  
Fryeburg  
LD 1111

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of LD1111.

A little background about me is that I have lived in Fryeburg, Maine for the past 12 years, I am a UNH Natural Resource Steward, and a member of the Fryeburg Conservation Committee. I was present at the PUC meeting in 2013, where almost all of those testifying were pleading and bringing logical reasoning to stop a 45 year bulk extraction contract for Poland Spring. Many of our citizens testified against the contract, and I specifically recall testimony that was allowed, but not would not become a part of the record, because the speaker was from over the state border in New Hampshire. This person specifically cited what LD1111 puts forth – The realization that extraction at the cite in Fryeburg over the center of the Wards' Brook aquifer would affect the “edges” of the aquifer bowl, long before measures in the center showed decrease in volume. And that there was much concern beyond the borders of Fryeburg when it came to the 45-year extraction contract.

In my town we are seeing the decrease in Ward's Brook Aquifer water volume by observing a very special spring fed pond called Round Pond. The pond has decreased in size dramatically. Year after year I have gone to observe the nature and enjoy the pond and it seems like it won't be long before it disappears altogether. If you take a look at it you can see the vegetative shore line is now several feet from the edge of the pond and that distance is increasing. The pond has significantly decreased in circumference and depth. The pond is a visual representation of what is happening to our aquifer, because the pond exists due to the springs that feed it from underground. It is a rare ecosystem and it is disappearing,

If LD 1111 is passed, it would allow other communities to have more input and scrutiny of bulk water extraction contracts, as they should because the water within the aquifer cannot be contained within municipal boundaries. It makes sense to listen to all that are available to speak about what affects them, especially when it comes water, an essential element for life.