

Gwendolyn Forrest
Portland
LD 1111

Good Afternoon Senator Lawrence, Representative Ziegler and EUT Committee Members,

My name is Gwendolyn Forrest, and I live in Portland. I am testifying in support of LD 1111 "An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreement for Large-Scale Water Extraction".

We are fortunate here in Maine to have abundant groundwater, which will be essential in the decades ahead as the climate crisis worsens. We must be wise stewards of this vital resource. LD 1111 will help us do that by using a watershed approach, by strengthening democratic self-governance, and by minimizing the length of time of water contracts to 3 years (a contract duration that had long been Maine law until the last decade).

I aim to live in Maine for the rest of my life. I want us to manage the life-sustaining resource of water responsibly and with an understanding of our long-term health and wellbeing. LD 1111 will help get us on the path to do so.

Thank you for your attention to this issues.