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**Testimony In Opposition to
LD 1111, “An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreement for Large-scale Water
Extraction”**

March 30, 2023

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology,

My name is William Harwood and I am the Public Advocate, submitting testimony in opposition to LD 1111, “An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreement for Large-scale Water Extraction.”

The OPA appreciates that large-scale water extraction is an issue that needs to be regulated. However, we want to encourage water utilities to enter into arrangements to sell water whenever it is cost effective to do so. By selling water to a large user of water, a water utility has the opportunity to spread its fixed costs over a larger sales volume and thereby lower the price of water paid by all other ratepayers. The additional regulations proposed in this bill may unreasonably limit the utility’s ability to achieve this desirable result.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of this testimony. The Office of the Public Advocate looks forward to working with the Committee on LD 1111 and will be available for the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

William S. Harwood
Public Advocate