

Corey Lane  
Porter, Maine  
LD 1111

March 30, 2023

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Ziegler and EUT Committee Members (Senators Grohoski & Harrington, and Representatives Babin, Boyle, Dunphy, Foster, Geiger, Kessler, Paul, Runte, and Warren),

As a citizen and taxpayer of Porter, Maine, I write to you in support of LD 1111 “An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreements for Large-scale Water Extraction” I appreciate your time and consideration on this important matter.

At a time when clean drinking water is becoming more scarce every day, the passing of LD 1111 would add some of the needed protections to Maine’s drinking water supplies, all of which are common sense for all that rely on it. The time of worrying about the profits of the Large-Scale Extractors needs to end as the citizens of Maine have been taken advantage of for way too long.

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §6109-B: Contracts being limited to three years are needed due to the changing climate. This includes periods of drought that leave many with dry wells which, as you likely know, is incredibly expensive to resolve leaving many in a financial crisis. Continuing to allow Large-Scale extractors to take advantage of our essential resource without this limit on the length of the contract is not practical. Without this limit, citizens of Maine would remain at risk for the profit of corporations as they laugh all the way to the bank. Limiting large scale extractors to three year contracts in our home rule state is just common sense and it is long overdue.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §6109-B, sub-§1-A: Maine is a home rule state and requiring local approval when considering contracts, agreements, extensions, and renewals gives important decisions like this back to the people where it belongs. The addition of this section is common sense for the protection of the citizens of the State and is long overdue.

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §6109-B, sub-§2, A-1. This is another common sense amendment that is long overdue.

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §6109-B, sub-§4, Transparency issues and lack of attention to detail (such as whether a company has met all approvals required) are, unfortunately, not uncommon. This amendment is essential for the protection of the citizens of Maine and is long overdue.

In closing, the State of Maine has been taken advantage of by Large-Scale Extractors for far too long. LD 1111 closes some of the gaps that have benefited for profit companies at the expense of the citizens of the State of Maine. It is time that citizens in our home rule State have some control over our water which we all rely on to survive and the passage of LD 1111 would be a step in that direction.

Please vote in support of LD 1111 the added protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

Corey Lane  
Resident and taxpayer of Porter, Maine