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LD 1111

Hello Committee Members;

I would like to express my support for LD1111 through this written testimony.

I have been a resident of Fryeburg, Maine for almost thirty years and love being here due to the many and various natural ecosystems and opportunities to recreate in natural settings. One place I visit frequently is Round Pond, which is on Fryeburg town land that is leased to the Eastern Slopes Regional Airport. This is a 4 acre pond that is up to twelve feet deep at normal water levels, and is nearly entirely spring fed, with no inlet or outlet. Surrounding the pond is a globally rare ecosystem called Outwash Plain Pond Shore Community, with only 5 of these exemplary communities existing in Maine. There is another one nearby on Davis Pond which is a little smaller but has the same rare characteristics. One time I was ice skating on Round Pond and counted 39 round areas of black and thinner ice, showing me the locations of all the springs.

The water levels in both of these rare and fragile ponds have been steadily dropping since I started making regular observations 8 years ago. Now the water level in Round Pond is only 9 feet deep. This is having a detrimental effect on the Outwash Plain Pond Shore Community. I am fully convinced that the bulk extraction of the water in the aquifer below these ponds are the cause of these drops in water levels.

Poland Spring has a contract to extract bulk water from this aquifer for another 10 years before the contract is even reviewed again. The contract allows 20 years with an additional 5 automatic renewals equaling 45 years with no public input. This is way too long! If LD 1111 is passed this would allow other communities to have more input and scrutiny of any bulk water extraction contracts, for the long term benefit of the community.

I am also in support of allowing other municipalities within a watershed where bulk water extraction is proposed to have legal authority. Water travels across municipal boundaries and it only makes sense to take the concerns of all affected by water use no matter where the municipal boundary lies.