

# Maine Climate Action **NOW!**

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

From: Amy Eshoo, Maine Climate Action Now

Date: April 11, 2023

Re: LD 1111: An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreement for Large-scale Water Extraction  
OUGHT TO PASS

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and Honorable Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Amy Eshoo. I am a resident of North Yarmouth and Director for Maine Climate Action Now, a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations who support transformative action in response to the climate crisis. Our members include youth, elder, faith, environmental, community, and health organizations. We hold social, racial, and economic justice as critical to a just transition.

MCAN calls for equity and justice in the actions we take and policies we support. LD 1111 is no exception. An abundance of drinking water is one of our state's greatest assets and should be protected for all residents. In the face of increasing global drought and a future of increasing demand for clean drinking water, Maine should be more active and vigilant in protecting this great asset. Around the world investors and corporations are looking to increase their control of freshwater sources for private gain instead of public good. This will only lead to pitting those with access to water resources against those in need of this basic life necessity. We shouldn't let this happen in our state.

Maine can no longer count on our water without practicing good stewardship as our climate rapidly changes and thus our water resources shift. MCAN is asking you for water protection for all - to avoid privatization of this life giving resource at the municipal level.

We are currently without strong enough regulation to adequately protect our groundwater supplies. As an equity issue we believe in giving communities, which may bear the impacts of large-scale water exports, the opportunity to protect and steward their watersheds for themselves and for future generations.

LD 1111 would offer such protection by calling for municipal approval, public meetings and public comments for contracts and agreements for the large scale extraction and transportation of water. LD 1111 relies on local democracy and local decision-making, where the impacts of these decisions are experienced. Calling for a 3 year limit on a contract or agreement means accountability for both sides.

Maine Climate Action Now urges you to vote Ought To Pass on LD 1111 as a vote for equity and justice. Thank you.

Amy Eshoo  
Maine Climate Action Now  
LD 1111

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