



BRUNSWICK & TOPSHAM
WATER DISTRICT

PO Box 489
Topsham, Maine 04086
Telephone (207) 729-9956
Fax (207) 725-6470

Craig W. Douglas, PE
General Manager

T.C. Schofield, PE
District Engineer

Daniel O. Knowles, CPA
Director of Finance and
Data Management Systems

Joshua S. Cobb, PE
Director of Operations

February 18, 2026

Honorable Chip Curry, Chair
Honorable Traci Gere, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Housing & Economic Development
Maine State Legislature
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Testimony in Opposition to LD 2173, “An Act to Update the Laws Regarding Housing Developments and Accessory Dwelling Units”

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and Members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

The Brunswick & Topsham Water District respectfully submits testimony in opposition to the portions of LD 2173 that would remove local municipal authority to regulate subsurface wastewater disposal for the purpose of protecting public drinking water supplies, specifically Sections 7, 10-C, 12, and 18.

While the Brunswick & Topsham Water District recognizes and supports the urgent need for additional housing opportunities in Maine, especially as it relates to the labor market, it is critical that such efforts not undermine longstanding protections for public drinking water supplies.

Public water supports higher-density and sustainable housing development, by providing the critical commodity of water to such developments. Preserving municipal authority to protect water sources therefore supports—rather than hinders—responsible growth.

The communities of Brunswick and Topsham, have both adopted local groundwater protection ordinances designed to safeguard the community’s sources of drinking water. The District currently maintains groundwater sources in both communities and each source has delineated wellhead protection areas that are incorporated into the respective Town’s ordinance, where restricted and prohibited activities are carefully tailored to site-specific hydrogeologic conditions and surrounding land uses.

Eliminating local authority to regulate subsurface wastewater disposal within these protection zones would pose a significant risk to the purity and quality of the region’s public water supply. A statewide, one-size-fits-all approach cannot adequately account for the highly localized and unique conditions that comprise groundwater protection.

The protection overlays provide differing subsurface wastewater disposal conditions and restrictions designed to ensure the integrity of the water supply. This localized framework is essential to effective source-water protection while allowing development that minimizes the threat of contamination to the region's water supply.

For these reasons, Brunswick & Topsham Water District respectfully urges the Committee to retain local authority for the protection of public water supplies and to amend LD 2173 accordingly. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee and stakeholders to develop language that advances housing goals while maintaining essential source-water protections.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Douglas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig W. Douglas, PE
General Manager

Craig Douglas
Topsham
LD 2173

Please see attached letter