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5/13/2025

Senator Tipping, Chair
Representative Roeder, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Labor
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1935 – *An Act to Increase Penalties for Violations Related to Water Well Drilling*

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, thank you for the opportunity to provide information in support of LD 1935, *An Act to Increase Penalties for Violations Related to Water Well Drilling*.

This bill proposes to amend Title 32 to increase the maximum fine for licensing violations and certain code violations related to well drilling from \$1,000 to \$25,000 and specifies that unlicensed drilling of a water well or geothermal heat exchange is a Class D crime. This bill provides the Water Well Commission, as established by 32 MRS Chapter 69-C, with increased penalties to enforce licensing and code provisions, in order to protect public health.

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) supports this bill as a way to improve compliance with 10-144 CMR Chapter 232, Well Drillers and Pump Installers Rules and to better protect the health of residents who rely on private well water. It will have a positive impact the State's well-drilling profession by imposing increased fines for non-compliance with Chapter 232, and will help to discourage unlicensed well drillers from taking work away from the licensed well drillers in the State. Licensed drillers are held to account by the Well Drillers Commission to follow the rules.

Currently, the minimal fine of \$1,000 does not adequately discourage noncompliance with the well-drilling regulations and does not cover the cost of their enforcement. This results in unqualified industry personnel who do not follow the rules that are designed to protect public health.

In conclusion, the Maine CDC recommends that the Committee vote ought to pass on LD 1935 to increase compliance with well drilling regulations within the State and protect public health.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Puthiery Va".

Puthiery Va, DO
Director
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Maine Department of Health and Human Services