



Portland Water District
FROM SEBAGO LAKE TO CASCO BAY

April 3, 2023

Committee On Labor and Housing
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

**Re: LD 949 – AN ACT TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM EMPLOYER
SURVEILLANCE**

Dear Chair Senator Michael Tipping, Co-Chair Representative Amy Roeder, and Members of the Committee on Labor and Housing:

My name is Seth Garrison, and I am the General Manager of the Portland Water District. I provide this letter to you in opposition to LD 949.

The Portland Water District (PWD, the “District”) is a public utility created by private and special law of the State Legislature in 1908 to provide drinking water to the people of greater Portland. Today, PWD provides drinking water to over 200,000 people in eleven communities, and wastewater services to six of those communities. The affairs of PWD are managed by a Board of Trustees composed of 11 members, all popularly elected by the voters from the communities they represent.

PWD has approximately 180 employees and manages a fleet of 85 vehicles, 25 trailers, six pieces of mobile construction equipment, and two boats. PWD employs a fleet management system that includes GPS tracking features. It allows us to responsibly track our mobile assets for our customers, so we can be sure they are getting maximum value from them. Our fleet management system also helps PWD maintain its vehicles by monitoring such items as tire pressure, mileage, fuel fill-ups, braking patterns, speeds, etc. All PWD employees have received notice and are aware there are tracking systems in the vehicles.

Fleet management data is accessed by PWD for a variety of useful purposes. It is routinely used for scheduling; for example, an employee working in one community can be sent to a call at an adjacent location saving time and resources without having the employee required to return to home base. It is also used to monitor the performance of assets, so we can ensure our fleet is running efficiently. When customers call with questions about a PWD vehicle or another vehicle they suspect to be a PWD vehicle, the tracking data can confirm if, in fact, it was a PWD fleet vehicle. This is invaluable for proving to customers that we are responsible for our vehicles and their operators. Data also assists in accident investigations and deterring theft. We can easily track a vehicle if it is stolen.

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Fleet Management using GPS is a valuable tool that PWD uses to protect customers and ensure they are getting the maximum value out of fleet investments. LD 949 would prohibit the legitimate use of this resource. PWD is in the business of public service, and the public demands that our operations, which ratepayers pay for, be efficient and economically effective. Utilizing tracking allows us to meet these expectations.

For these reasons, we hope that you will oppose LD 949.

Thank you for your consideration.



Seth Garrison