

Portland Water District

From Sebago Lake to Casco Bay

January 13, 2026

Senator Joesph Baldacci, Chair
Representative Suzanne Salisbury, Chair
Members of the State and Local Government Committee

Subject: Support for LD 2042- an Act to Eliminate the Requirement for Municipalities to Provide Public Notice in a Newspaper

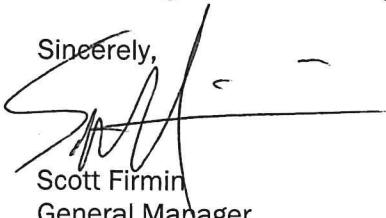
Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee:

Portland Water District (PWD or the “District”) is a quasi-municipal, consumer-owned utility created by private and special law of the State Legislature in 1908 to provide water to the people of greater Portland. Today, PWD provides drinking water to over 200,000 people in 11 Cumberland County communities, and wastewater treatment 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 a plurality of the voters from the communities they represent. We do not have shareholders that profit from our activities and therefore our sole interest is meeting the needs of our customers. Our activities and operations are similar to the operations of a municipality.

The District publishes notices in the Portland Press Herald twice a month notifying the public of our Board’s meetings. We also provide notice on the District’s website and in the District’s Customer Service Lobby. The general cost of publication on an annual basis for the publication of these notices is close to \$3,000, and climbing. If Special meetings are held for any reason, they too are advertised, at additional cost. This cost is borne by our ratepayers – the public.

LD 2042, an Act to Eliminate the Requirement for Municipalities to Provide Public Notice in a Newspaper, as presently drafted, applies only to notices published by a municipality. We support the legislation because it will save publication costs borne by the public, while allowing the public to continue to be informed about meetings through the use of the municipality’s website – a common method of providing notices today. We ask that quasi-municipal entities be included in this legislation so that our rate payers can enjoy the same cost savings while continuing to receive public notices of meeting schedules.

Sincerely,



Scott Firmin
General Manager