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YORK SEWER DISTRICT
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January 13, 2026

Senator Joseph 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:

York Sewer District is a quasi-municipal wastewater utility created by the Maine Legislature to provide wastewater collection and treatment services to the Town of York. The District operates as a consumer-owned public utility governed by an elected Board of Trustees and exists solely to serve the public interest and the needs of our ratepayers.

The District routinely publishes public notices related to Board meetings and other required notices in a local newspaper, as well as on the District's website and through other commonly used communication channels. While public notice is an essential component of transparent governance, the cost of newspaper publication continues to rise and represents a growing and unnecessary expense borne entirely by our ratepayers. On an annual basis, these publication costs can total nearly a thousand dollars, with additional costs incurred when special meetings or supplemental notices are required.

LD 2042, as currently drafted, would eliminate the statutory requirement for municipalities to publish public notices in a newspaper and instead allow notice to be provided through municipal websites and other modern, widely accessible means. We support this legislation because it would reduce unnecessary costs to the public while still ensuring transparency and access to information for residents.

However, as a quasi-municipal entity, York Sewer District is currently not included within the scope of LD 2042. We respectfully request that the Committee consider extending the provisions of this bill to include quasi-municipal districts such as ours. Doing so would allow our ratepayers to realize the same cost savings afforded to municipalities, while maintaining robust and effective public notice practices consistent with current technology and public expectations.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and for your continued support of efficient, transparent local governance.

Sincerely,

Philip J Tucker

Philip J Tucker
Superintendent