

ESTABLISH ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS FOR ALL, FOR GENERATIONS

LD 928 will amend Maine's Constitution to secure lasting, universal rights to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment.

Maine people, our livelihoods, and outdoors culture require a healthy environment to thrive.

- Maine's identity and economy are based on its natural assets.
- Our heritage industries and the workers who power them — farmers, fishermen, and foresters — as well as our tourism businesses, depend on a healthy environment to prosper.
- Clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and a healthy environment for work and recreation contribute to the health and general well-being of all people in Maine.
- Currently, there is no foundational principle to guide state policymakers at every level of government in their deliberations to protect the basic essentials for life — clean air, clean water, and healthy ecosystems — for today and future generations.

We must prioritize lasting environmental protections and ongoing climate action.

- Maine's natural resources —our forests, minerals, aquifers and marine waters — are prime targets for out-of-state extractive and commercial-sized industries and must be managed, preserved and protected for all people in Maine, including future generations.
- Maine people entrust the stewardship of these natural resources to policymakers at every level of government, yet our environmental laws and regulations can be weakened or overturned as administrations and legislatures change.
- The discovery of toxic PFAS chemicals seeping through our farmlands and waters shows the vulnerability of our environment, the need to uphold its integrity, and the gaps in our current legal protections.

Constitutionally protected environmental rights provide the strongest foundation on which to build a resilient and sustainable Maine for today and the future.

- Like other provisions in Maine's Declaration of Rights that protect the inalienable rights of all people in our state — freedom of speech; the right to grow, raise, produce, and consume food of your choice; the right to keep and bear arms, etc. — the Pine Tree Amendment requires government at all levels to protect rights to a clean and healthy environment.
- LD 928 would provide guidance to lawmakers and state agencies and ensure that our laws and regulations are interpreted, applied, and enforced in service to that constitutional obligation, assuring government accountability.
- The Pine Tree Amendment would enshrine environmental justice in Maine's Constitution, demonstrating the State's permanent commitment to equity and providing legal standing to those who believe their environmental rights have been violated.



Support LD 928. Protect current and future generations from environmental harm.

For more information, please contact
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Environmental Priorities Coalition



Maine's **Environmental Priorities Coalition** is a partnership of 37 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 120,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to protect Maine's extraordinary environment so all Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.

