

ESTABLISH ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLE IN MAINE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

LD 489 will amend Maine's Constitution to secure 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.

The COVID-19 pandemic and accelerating changes to our climate have revealed the importance of prioritizing Maine's resilience and planning for future sustainability.

- 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.
- There can also be gaps in the law that result in environmental and economic tragedies, such as PFAS contamination.

Constitutionally protected environmental rights provide a 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.
- The Pine Tree Amendment would ensure that our laws and regulations are interpreted, applied, and enforced in service to that constitutional obligation, and provide local communities legal standing if they believe their environmental rights have been violated by the government.
- The Pine Tree Amendment would protect investments in business and real estate by ensuring that the environment will remain healthy and clean.
- The Pine Tree Amendment would strengthen existing environmental protections and provide a foundation for future protections — bills passed in the future could not violate rights to a healthy environment.

Support LD 489 — The Pine Tree Amendment.

Establish constitutionally protected environmental rights for all people in Maine, including future generations.

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.

