

TALKING POINTS

The PTA ensures that all Mainers have the right to a clean and healthy environment for generations to come.

Our right to a clean and healthy environment should be as fundamental as our right to vote.

The PTA ensures that all Legislatures, Governors, laws, and permits will honor our constitutional environmental rights. Laws can be made and unmade, but the Constitution is permanent.

The Constitution has greater legal significance than statute, so the PTA enshrines our rights in a way that Mainers have never had before.

Our Maine identity is about our outdoors, woods, waterways, ocean, hiking, hunting, and fishing. All Mainers deserve a right to this way of life for generations to come.

The PTA holds the government accountable to protect our basic rights to clean and healthy environments.

The PTA will provide broad guidance that ensures government decision making--substantively and procedurally--considers environmental impacts early in the process when prevention of pollution, degradation and environmental harm is most possible.

No person in Maine, whether today or decades into the future, should have to question their right to a clean and healthy environment.

Our state is defined by our extraordinary environment - it is who we are and what we value, as individuals and as a state. Protecting the health of our waters, air, land and wildlife is essential to our future well-being and prosperity.

Our way of life in Maine depends on a clean and healthy environment. The Pine Tree Amendment will help safeguard our right to breathe clean air and drink clean water.

LD 489 is an opportunity for us to affirm our values and ensure that the woods and waters that we love are here for those who come after us.

The Pine Tree Amendment ensures that all the good work that has been done here in Maine on behalf of the environment will not be rolled back by a future

administration or legislature and will give all people in Maine confidence that future generations will be able to enjoy the beauty of this place we call home.

The government should never get in the way of your clean air, clean water, outdoor space--now, or in the future.

The PTA will place the rights to clean water and air and healthy environments legally on par with the rights to bear arms, to free elections, to free speech, freedom of religion and the rights of victims of serious crimes to be treated with respect, fairness and dignity

The PTA will strengthen environmental justice by ensuring all communities – regardless of race, ethnicity or income – have the same rights to clean water and air and healthy environments and the duty of all government officials to protect all communities equitably.

The PTA will empower communities to address the government's unconstitutional infringement on environmental rights such as clean water and air, by providing constitutional grounding for their advocacy and access to the courts for redress.

This amendment gives the people more opportunity to challenge the government when a law, permit, or any other action threatens our basic rights.

There is a huge grassroots movement behind this amendment, with dozens and dozens of Maine organizations, businesses, and individuals supporting.

Pennsylvania and Montana have already passed this kind of environmental amendment. There are eleven states with active efforts to pass similar environmental rights amendments.

Pennsylvania's Amendment has been used to check legislative overreach that would have put in place automatic waivers of environmental protection standards for fracking, relieved the industry from notification requirements where there was potential drinking water contamination of private wells, and more. PA & MT amendments are also being used to prevent harmful gold mining operations; advance drinking water protections from PFAS contamination; preventing state legislators from raiding environmental protection funds; requiring consideration of science and impacts before permitting environmentally damaging operations; securing cleanup of toxic contamination and more.

The main principle of the healthcare industry is to do no harm. This should be our primary principle for our natural resources as well.