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**Testimony Neither for nor Against  
LD 211, “An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Water Supply Protection Funds”  
February 7, 2023**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology,

My name is William Harwood and I am the Public Advocate, testifying neither for nor against LD 211, “An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Water Supply Protection Funds.”

The OPA has concerns about allowing the holders of conservation easements to use utility funds to acquire property. As defined in Title 33 Section 476, the purposes for which holders have easements are broadly defined. We want to ensure that once the monies have been spent from the Fund that the water utility receives legally enforceable rights that can be exercised by the utility to protect the watershed for the benefit of ratepayers.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of this testimony. The Office of the Public Advocate looks forward to working with the Committee on LD 211 and will be available for the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

William S. Harwood  
Public Advocate