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**TO: FROM:**

**DATE: SUBJECT:**

## Town of Brunswick, Maine

### RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE **MEMORANDUM**

Town Council

Jamie Ecker Committee Chair

June 3, 2021

Pine Tree Constitutional Amendment – Council Resolution of Support

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A RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment (LD 489) is working its way through the current session of the Maine Legislature. As amended by the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, where Representative Ralph Tucker of Brunswick serves as the House Co-Chair, this proposed amendment to the Constitution of Maine reads as follows:

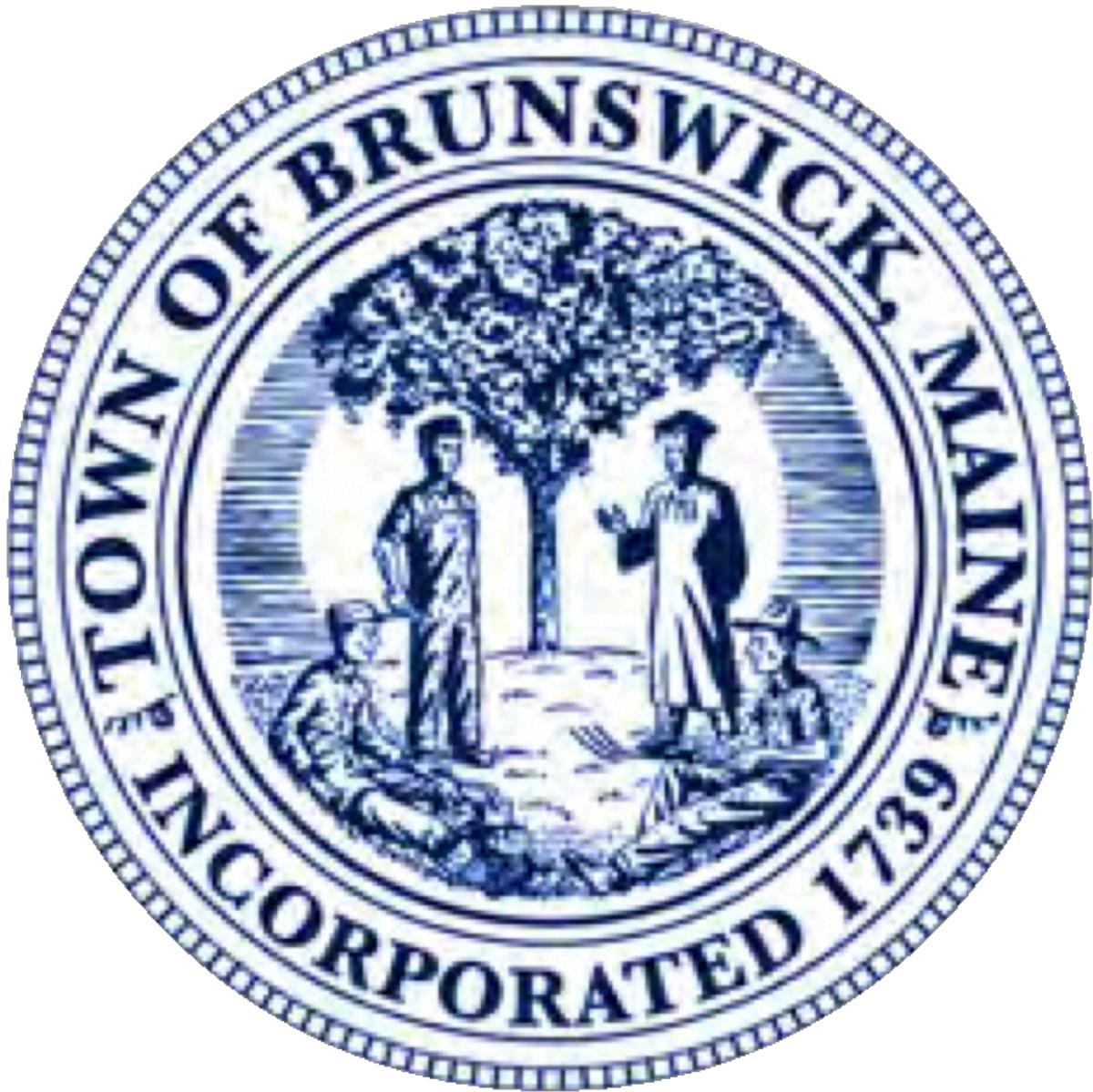
***The people of the State have the right to a clean and healthy environment and to the preservation of the natural, cultural and healthful qualities of the environment. The State may not infringe upon these rights. The State shall conserve, protect and maintain the State's natural resources, including, but not limited to, its air, water, land and ecosystems for the benefit of all the people, including generations to come.***

Two other states (Pennsylvania and Montana) have similar constitutional provisions, and other states are considering them. In Maine, the Committee amendment of LD 489 has received initial bipartisan majority votes to enact this resolve, but not by the two-thirds majority required. All the legislators representing Brunswick have voted in support of this constitutional change, known as the Pine Tree Amendment. In Maine, any proposed constitution amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote of both the Senate and the House, followed by approval by the people of Maine in a statewide election.

The proposed Town Council action is to urge the necessary support for the Pine Tree Amendment in both the Senate and House, in alignment with the interests of Brunswick residents and the support of this measure by all legislators representing Brunswick people, which would send the Pine Tree Amendment to the voters of Maine for approval or disapproval in a statewide election.

Town of Brunswick, Maine

Town of Brunswick, Maine



**TOWN COUNCIL**

***Resolution Supporting Passage of The Pine Tree Amendment to Maine's Constitution, LD 489***

***Whereas***, every person in Brunswick deserves the right to a clean and healthy environment and to the perseveration of the natural, cultural, and healthful qualities of the environment;

***Whereas***, the State should conserve, protect, and maintain the State's natural resources, including, but not limited to, its air, water, land and ecosystems for the benefit of all the people, including generations yet to come;

***Whereas***, the 130th Maine Legislature has developed legislation to grant these rights to all citizens in the State by proposing to amend the Constitution of Maine, via LD 489, entitled "Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment";

***Whereas***, the committee amendment of LD 489 that would send this amendment to the Constitution of Maine to the voters of Maine for approval or disapproval has received initial bipartisan support in both the Senate and House of Representatives of the Maine Legislature, but not yet the two-thirds majority vote required for a constitutional amendment; and

***Whereas***, this proposed legislation is supported by all current legislators elected by Brunswick citizens in the 130th Maine Legislature;

***Now therefore***, be it resolved by the Town Council of Brunswick that,

The Town of Brunswick strongly urges both the Senate and House of Representatives of the Maine Legislature to pass The Pine Tree Amendment to the Constitution of Maine, LD 489, as currently amended, by the required two-thirds majority.

*Voted by the Town Council of Brunswick, Maine this 7th day of June, 2021*

*\_ /s/ John M. Perreault \_\_\_\_\_ John M. Perreault, Chair - Town Council*