

May 15, 2025

Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
ENR@legislature.maine.gov

RE: LD 1158 – Removing Reference to Water Softeners

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the Water Quality Association (WQA), the Eastern Water Quality Association (EWQA), the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), and the undersigned businesses and organizations, we are writing to thank you for unanimously voting to remove the reference to water softeners from LD 1158.

Benefits of Water Softening

As water treatment professionals, we know firsthand the struggles many people in our state face in accessing quality water. Water softeners play a critical role in water treatment, as these systems help address certain contaminants in drinking water, including the reduction or removal of radium, barium, strontium, iron, and other divalent cations, and can have a positive impact on certain health concerns. Additionally, they are often needed for specific medical applications (important system pre-treatment for those with immune-compromised health conditions). Many hospitals are reliant on this technology for sterilization, dialysis, and laboratory testing.

Water softeners also have several other benefits, including energy savings and improved appliance efficiency (Water Heaters, Dishwashers, etc.). A study conducted by the [Battelle Memorial Institute](#) asserts that residential and commercial water softening and conditioning systems are vital in ensuring that home, business, and medical appliances operate effectively and efficiently. Failing to remove water softeners from the bill would have put unnecessary restrictions on or prohibited the sale of this technology that helps achieve greater energy savings.

Regulating Water Softeners

It should be noted that water softeners are already regulated in Maine through the adoption of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) and must be certified to meet nationally recognized, consensus-based industry standards. In other words, a regulatory framework for this technology is already in place, and keeping it included in the bill would have created unnecessary confusion for manufacturers, local businesses, and constituents.

Going forward, we welcome any opportunity to serve as a resource to your office on this and future legislation impacting the water quality of your constituents. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at govaffairs@wqa.org.

Sincerely,

Maine Companies:

Eastern Water Quality Association (EWQA)

Air & Water Quality Inc of Freeport

Air & Water Quality Inc of Ellsworth

Blake Equipment of Maine

EverClean Water Treatment Systems

Atlantic Water Solutions

Fontus Water Treatment

Norlen's Water Treatment, LLC

Water Treatment Equipment, Inc.

Pure Experts

Coastal Water Treatment

Cornerstone Plumbing, Heating, & Cooling Inc.

C and M Enterprises

Aerus of Augusta

National Companies:

Water Quality Association (WQA)

International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

ENPRESS LLC

A.O. Smith

Nuvia Water Technologies Inc.

EcoWater Systems LLC

General Technologies, SPC

Jason's Water Systems

Culligan International

Nelsen Corporation

Kinetico Water Systems

ResinTech, Inc.

Franklin Water Treatment