

# **H<sub>2</sub>💧 for ME**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date:** July 29, 2004

**Subject:** **H<sub>2</sub>💧 for ME Challenges State's Range Pond Water Contract**

**For Release:** **Immediately**

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**STOW**—James Wilfong, leader of the citizens' initiative group H<sub>2</sub>💧 for ME (H<sub>2</sub>O for Maine), today issued a letter asking Conservation Commissioner Patrick McGowan and, by copy, the Governor, to review water extraction policy along with current and future bulk water contracts. In the letter, Wilfong states, "Citizens have invested their hard earned money, publicly and privately, in cleaning up Maine's water for more than 35 years. The citizens of Maine deserve an appropriate return on that investment."

**H<sub>2</sub>💧 for ME** is citizens' group proposing a 20-cent per gallon water extraction fee on containerized water for resale. Proceeds would be invested into a "Water Dividend Trust" which in turn will loan money to small business development in Maine and conduct sustainability research leading to water resource management. The group intends to have a referendum move through the Legislative process this winter and, if necessary, go out for a vote by the people in 2005. More information about **H<sub>2</sub>💧 for ME** is available at: [www. H<sub>2</sub>💧 for ME.com](http://www.H<sub>2</sub>💧forME.com).