MAINE RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP DAY PROCLAMATION 2025

WHEREAS, the year 2025 presents a powerful opportunity to raise awareness and appreciation for the vital role of Registered Apprenticeship programs in strengthening Maine's water and wastewater workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) acknowledges the critical importance of developing a dynamic, inclusive, and future-ready workforce to meet the evolving needs of our communities and protect public health through water and wastewater services; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship provides a time-tested, industry-led training framework that equips job seekers with valuable skills while allowing employers to build a loyal, competent, and sustainable talent pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Rural Water Association is committed to ensuring equitable access to high-quality training and employment opportunities for all individuals—particularly those from historically underserved backgrounds including rural residents, women, people of color, youth, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and those seeking second chances; and

WHEREAS, MRWA recognizes the transformative potential of Registered Apprenticeship in tackling some of today's greatest workforce challenges, such as rebuilding infrastructure, securing essential public services, advancing environmental resilience, and creating long-term career pathways in the water sector.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Kirsten Hebert**, Executive Director of the **Maine Rural Water Association**, encourage all water and wastewater professionals across Maine to honor the value of Registered Apprenticeship during **National Apprenticeship Day** and to support the growth and development of a skilled workforce through apprenticeship.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP DAY April 30, 2025

IN SOLIDARITY,

Kirsten Hebert

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MRWA Proclamation for US DOL

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