

Mary Maxwell
Bridgton
LD 164

Dear members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Mary Maxwell, I have owned lakefront property in Bridgton for more than 25 years. I am asking for your support today for LD 164: An Act to Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund.

I have spent years devoted to lake protection. I have served on the Woods Pond Association Board, Bridgton. Our mission is to protect, preserve and enhance the water quality of Woods Pond. I have spent many years conducting Courtesy Boat Inspections at the Woodspend boat ramp and organizing Invasive Plant paddles through out lake region working closely with Lakes Environmental Association. My husband I have been the official loon counters for Woods Pond for 15 years and have started the Loon Ranger program to protect the loons during nesting season.

I know how fragile our lakes are and that their continued beauty and health can not be taken for granted. Maine's lakes are the engine of Vacation Land and should be respected as our state's most valuable asset.

The effects of warming waters, longer growing seasons, larger rain events, and increased development pressure are putting Maine's lakes at more risk than ever before. Funding for lake protection projects - such as implementation of Best Management Practices, replacement of failing septic systems, stronger invasive species management programs, and treatment of lakes with chronic algae blooms - are desperately needed to safeguard lake health for the future.

Please invest in the healthy future of Maine's lakes today to protect local economies, outdoor tourism, sporting and recreation businesses, drinking water supplies, wildlife habitat and so much more for all who use lakes in the future.

Sincerely,

Mary Maxwell

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