

Dana Huber
Augusta
LD 164

1/27/23

Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I am Dana Huber and I have spent a portion of my summers in Maine on Togus Pond, in Augusta all of my 60 years of life and so have many of my family and friends.

My dad was introduced to Togus in the 50s and made it his special place from there on. My grandparents purchased a place on Togus in 1960 and the cottage has been the catalyst for our family ever since. Our family is spread out across the country and Togus is where we are able to reunited and spend quality time on the lake. My parents purchased a cottage on Togus in 1970 and as a child I spent my whole summer enjoying the lake. As a working adult, I am not able to spend the whole summer, but as I approach retirement, I am able to increase this quality time.

I also raised my family on Togus and the tradition continues. I am looking forward to teaching my future grandchildren how to swim and ski, just like I did.

This tradition has been very similar for friends that my father introduced to Togus years ago. Many families still enjoy a few weeks a year on the pond and one family also purchased a cottage many years ago.

I am asking for your support today for LD 164: An Act to Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund. The effects of warming waters, longer growing seasons, larger rain events, and increased development pressure has put our lakes at greater risk. Funding for the lake protection projects, including 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 Maine's lake health in coming decades, so future families can spend the quality time around all of the beautiful waterway Maine has to offer.

I believe that Maine's great outdoors and beautiful waterways is what draws families together and helps to make the quality of life so good in Maine. Maine ranks #2 on crime and #14 for environment as the best places to live.

Our Lake Association has been doing a lot of work to try to raise the funds for the treatments needed to preserve our lake. Last year our lake added a public launch, which opens up the lake to invasive species, but at this time, the quality of the water is still the responsibility of the property owner around the lake.

Please invest in the healthy future of Maine's waterways 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 now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Dana Huber