

Deborah & Jack Heffernan
Bridgton
LD 164

Dear members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

We are Deborah & Jack Heffernan. We have lived year-round in Bridgton on a Highland Lake peninsula for 40 years and are dedicated stewards of our precious environment. My husband has been in Maine since 1938, when he first arrived as a camper on Long Lake. We are asking for your support today for LD 164: An Act to Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund. Clean and healthy waters are not only Maine's greatest treasure, they are the foundations of our economy.

The effects of warming waters, longer growing seasons, larger rain events, and increased development pressure are putting our lakes at greater risk with every passing day. Funding for 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 lake health in the coming decades.

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. We are not able to testify in person for health reasons, but we sorely would like to be with you.

Signed,
Deborah Daw Heffernan and Jack (John V.) Heffernan