

January 2023

To: The Committee on Environment and Natural Resource

**RE: LD 164 – An Act to Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund**

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Stacey Keefer, Director for the Maine Marine Trades Association (MMTA). MMTA represents over 120 Maine businesses and an industry comprised of boatyards, boat builders, marinas, boat dealers, and marine retailers. Though many of our members are coastal, we do have members located on Maine lakes reaching as far north as Beaver Cove Marina on Moosehead Lake.

On behalf of the members of MMTA, we would appreciate funding that would support water quality protection on Maine lakes. Our organization has been involved with a stakeholder group organized by Maine DEP and IF&W to address aquatic invasive species. It would be helpful if funding could be used to help enhance current education efforts regarding the prevention of aquatic invasive species. And unfortunately, mitigation and restoration efforts can be extremely costly.

We would also like to encourage the funds to be used to help support costs and expand access to waste pumpout facilities for boaters. For many years the Maine DEP has helped fund municipal and marina pumpout infrastructure through an existing successful program. Though some of our larger lakes have pumpout facilities, not all of them have the equipment and we would encourage some of this fund to be used for those purposes. Lakefront public restrooms are also helpful for protecting water quality for boaters, beachgoers, campers, and people fishing.

Boating and fishing make up the largest percentage of the outdoor recreation economic impact relative to all other forms of outdoor activities –both in Maine and on the national level. Protecting the quality of Maine lakes is important for a healthy environment, healthy wildlife, and also to maintain the quality of water that boaters and anglers seek in our world-class waterways. We hope you will consider supporting LD 164.

Respectfully,  
Stacey Keefer  
Maine Marine Trades Association, Executive Director