

Senator Brenner
Representative Gramlich
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural
Resources

Re: LD 164, An Act to Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund

On behalf of the Cobbosseecontee Lake Association (CLA), I offer these comments in full support of LD 164. We want to thank Representative Bridgeo for bring this bill to your committee. We applaud his commitment to ensure the ongoing allocations of \$9,000,000 will be available to the DEP and their efforts to projects in the State that improve or maintain the quality of lake waters in our State.

Cobbosseecontee Lake, which is located roughly 5 miles from here, is a large and vulnerable water body that has recently been impacted by three different invasive aquatic plants. The lake has been threatened with an infestation of Eurasian water milfoil, variable leaf milfoil and frog bit. To our knowledge it is the only lake in Maine where all three have been identified. To that end, the CLA began an aggressive campaign to increase membership and raise funds to help with eradication efforts. It is an enormous challenge for everyone to improve and/or maintain lake quality and we are committed to doing our part, but we cannot do it alone. This legislation will be one more tool in the tool box to insure our lake and all affected lakes in Maine will have good water quality for the citizens of Maine, and those from away who visit our State, to enjoy.

We urge you to vote to allocate this needed funding. Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments.

Peter Meulendyk , Cobbosseecontee Lake Association