

Matthew Hoagland
Non-resident property owner in Denmark, Maine
LD 1111

Good Morning– I have a camp and property on and near Long Pond in Denmark, Maine.

I fully support LD 1111 “An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreements for Large-scale Water Extraction”

Long Pond in Denmark, Maine is a spring fed pond. As there is minor surface water input, Long Pond depends on groundwater inflow to maintain its natural dimensions. These coldwater inflows were a primary reason for the State of Maine to invest several decades ago in restoration of the pond to create a self-sustaining wild trout population. Any lowering of the water table near the pond could remove coldwater from deep in the pond where trout find refuge during the warmer months.

Lowering the water table around the pond is also detrimental to recreational uses of the pond and likely to depress property values because the water will become shallow and warmer; the sun would penetrate to a larger expanse of the bottom of the pond which in turn could very likely promote nuisance plant growth and possibly harmful algal growths.

A bulk water exporter is extracting groundwater from extraction wells located near the southern edge of Long Pond in Denmark. The impacts of this water extraction are uncertain at present and such uncertainty will no doubt persist with changing conditions in the future relating to climate, pumping rates, etc.

Renewing permits every three years is completely appropriate for groundwater extraction activities. Extraction well permittees and their associated permitting agencies hold in their hands an enormous responsibility to protect Maine’s special ecosystems as well as protecting human health and welfare. Three year permits will allow all stakeholders to make real time decisions under what we all know will be changing conditions of the future.

Thank you.