

Dina Benson  
Limerick, Maine  
LD 2141

Dear Chair LaFountain, Chair Landry, and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee,

Today I am writing to ask you to support LD 2141, a bill that will give much needed funding to help reduce the spread of invasive aquatic species in Maine's many lakes. My husband and I are part of a small group of kayakers and canoeists on Lake Arrowhead in Limerick and Waterboro who for the past two years have been patrolling the lake looking for, marking and removing the three invasive aquatic plants that unfortunately live and thrive in Arrowhead - brittle naiad, variable leaf milfoil and swollen bladderwort.

I sometimes feel like our little group is the modern Maine equivalent to the story of the little Dutch boy who put his finger in the dike. Hopefully we will have such a happy ending as his story. We play the role of the boy doing his best to save the day by his small act using the only resource he had. Your committee plays the role of the townspeople who can get the proper resources to actually make a difference and avert disaster. We need your help.

Maine's lakes, as well as the native fish and wildlife, cannot solve this manmade problem without your support along side of the many, many individual and smaller groups pouring their hearts and souls into this issue. The needs for managing current infestations of invasive species, as well as reducing the risk of spread, far exceed the current funding available.

I thank you in advance for your support LD 2141 in order to protect the future health of Maine's lakes.

Sincerely,

Dina S. Benson  
Limerick, Maine  
Lake Arrowhead