

Ann Marie Moran
Wayne
LD 2141

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

My name is Ann Marie Moran. I am a resident of Wayne in Kennebec County. I am writing today to ask your SUPPORT of LD 2141: An Act to Enhance Protections for and Better Address Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations.

From my first trip to Maine's Pocasset Lake in 1990 to visit extended family, it was clear this is a special place and I wanted to come back.

Since then my family traveled to Wayne at least once a year. We came for family events and to relax and be closer to nature. Our children learned to fish on Pocasset and we have countless memories of hikes through the Wayne and surrounding forests, camp fires, marshmallows, boating and we even saw a young bull moose swim across the lake!

In 2008 my parents bought the old Cary House B&B which we fondly refer to as the "not for profit" Inn, and our frequency of visits increased. In 2011, I was married on the lawn of the Franklin House on Main Street overlooking beautiful Lake Androscoggin. In 2017 my husband and I bought our home here on Pocasset Lake, at first a vacation home but knowing full well that this is where we want to be when we retire. We've invested our savings to improving the house and property since then and in late 2021, we moved here and sold our NJ residence.

I hope this story illustrates for you our love of this area and Maine Lakes. In the last few years the issue of invasive aquatic plants has grown and is right in our back yards now on Lake Androscoggin. Current effort and funding is not keeping pace with the need. YOUR SUPPORT is needed to approve LD 2141 and ensure we can continue to protect the lakes for this generations to come. Approving LD 2141 will do the following:

1. Provide the needed funding to address the most serious aquatic plant infestations,
2. Require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) to strengthen watercraft inspection protocols,
3. And Require DEP and IFW to review policies and procedures for surface use restrictions.

LD 2141 is a small price to pay to support the lakes. Keeping our lakes beautiful and free of invasive aquatic plants for future generations to enjoy? In my opinion, that is priceless! Without your support, uncontrolled invasive aquatic species will impact people like myself and the community as a whole. Our property values will be impacted and the trickle effect of infested lakes will impact the community and Maine vacation industry as a whole.

Sincerely,
AnnMarie Moran