

Diana McLaughlin
Wayne
LD 2141
January 31, 2024

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

I am writing to express my support for LD 2141, a bill that will fund work to reduce the spread of invasive species that threaten Maine lakes.

My husband and I have lived in western Kennebec County for the past 39 years. I sit on the Boards of both the Lovejoy Pond Improvement Association and the 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30 MWRA) and am an avid supporter of both organizations in their efforts to protect our pond and the greater watershed.

In 2021, an infestation of invasive variable leaf milfoil was discovered in Androscoggin Lake, the largest and southern-most lake in the watershed. The infested area is located near a heavily used public boat launch, which is likely not a coincidence. For the past three years, 30 MRWA, the Department of Environmental Protection and local volunteers have worked diligently to remove the invasive milfoil. While these ongoing efforts have helped to keep the milfoil infestation from spreading, the work is by no means complete and resources are thinly stretched.

Passage of LD 2141 is critical to protecting all of Maine's lakes and watersheds from invasive species and maintaining the quality of life for both people and wildlife in our beautiful state. Please support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Diana McLaughlin
Wayne, Maine