

January 31, 2024

Wendy Dyer, Belgrade, ME

LD 2141

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

My name is Wendy Dyer and I am a resident of Belgrade, Maine, where my family and I have spent countless hours enjoying the lakes in the area. Myself, my mother, and two of my children have all had the distinct experience of Courtesy Boat Inspecting for the 7 Lakes Alliance over the years, and I am writing today in **support of LD 2141, *An Act to Enhance Protections for and Better Address Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations in Inland Waters of the State.***

Aquatic invasive species are a major threat to our lakes, wildlife, and the overall community. Years ago, we could launch our boat down the road at the Belgrade boat launch before it was shut down because of the infestation of Variable Leaf Milfoil. This infestation is still present and abundant in Belgrade stream where I paddle board every summer. The current funding available to local and state organizations is not enough to contend with current infestations, let alone manage new ones.

I support the need for increased funding, as well as more methodical and thorough inspection regulations, and urge you to support LD 2141 for the good of our lakes.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Wendy Dyer