

Thomas J. Arminio
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Dear Chair LaFountain, Chair Landry, and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee:

I am expressing my support for LD 2141, a bill that will fund critical work to reduce the spread of invasive species.

This work benefits all who swim, work, live or play on Maine's lakes, as well as the fish and wildlife who make lakes their home.

My wife and I care greatly about this issue because we know how devastating invasive infestations can be to a lake, its wildlife, and its surrounding community, with far-reaching impacts to habitat, economic values, and tourism. My wife and I both are both firmly committed to preserving the health of Minnehonk Lake. We both conduct courtesy boat inspections; my wife conducts Lake Smart evaluations; I am the invasive plant patrol coordinator for our lake; we are on the Board of the Greater Minnehonk Lake Association, and I am on the Board of Directors of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association. We take our volunteer roles seriously. We are working as a team for clean and healthy lakes, ponds, and streams in our watershed and in the state of Maine.

The needs for managing current infestations of invasive species, as well as reducing the risk of spread, far exceed the current funding available. Therefore, I strongly urge you to support LD 2141 to protect the future health of Maine's lakes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Arminio
Captain, USN (Ret.)

Minnehonk Lake, Mount Vernon