

Cynthia Ripley  
30 Mile River Watershed Association  
LD 2141

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

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

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.

[REDACTED]

This issue is deeply important to my husband and I as well as the rest of our family. Generations of our family have summered on Flying Pond for the past 60+ years. A new generation now calls it "home from away". As a member of the Board of Directors of 30 Mile River Watershed I have seen first hand the impact of invasive plants on nearby Androscoggin Lake. I worry about the proximity and the likelihood of invasives traveling to other ponds in the watershed, including our own, via boat. Our family works hard to do what we can to help prevent invasive plant infestations. I have volunteered for many years as part of the Invasive Plant Patrol team. I also volunteer for Lake Smart and am a member of the Board of Flying Pond Improvement Association. We have seen increasing numbers of people and boats on our lake and know this also increases the likelihood of an infestation. An infestation impacts more than our beautiful ponds. It impacts the economy of many towns and villages and the livelihood of their residents.

[REDACTED]

Current funding is simply not enough. The needs for managing current infestations of invasive species, as well as reducing the risk of spread, far exceed the current funding available.

[REDACTED]

I urge you to support LD 2141 in order to protect the future health of Maine's lakes for future generations.

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your time and consideration,