

MARIANNE BUTAK

Wayne
LD 2141

February 5, 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, supporting the funding of critical work to reduce the spread of invasive species.

I am a resident of Wayne and a property owner on Pocasset Lake. Our other Wayne lake, Androscoggin, has already experienced infestation and is requiring costly intervention to contain, mitigate, and with luck, someday eliminate the invasive milfoil.

My partner and I are dedicated to the cleanliness of Maine waters and have volunteered with 30 Mile River Watershed Association to support this effort. I have a legacy in this effort, as my parents also worked to monitor Pocasset in the 80's and 90's, until they were physically unable to continue.

Androscoggin has a campground on its shore, as many Maine lakes do, and hosts many out-of-state boaters, with no assurance that there is boat monitoring available to them. I have driven into Montana several times, a state which does require boaters to pull over for inspections, and has been successful in their efforts.

We need to protect our lakes. Attempts at mitigation once the invasive species are introduced is expensive and difficult to impossible.

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. Once these species are introduced, they grow and spread rapidly, outcompeting native plants, and creating blooms that degrade habitat for fish and wildlife.

Thank you for your efforts and your work on this bill.

Best Regards,
Marianne Butak
Wayne, Maine