

Hello, members of the State and Local Government committee,

I am writing in **support** of *LD 2101 - An Act to Strengthen Shoreland Zoning Enforcement*.

As we are all aware, one of Maine's greatest assets is our freshwater resources. Shoreland zoning laws are intended to protect the quality of our inland waters by restricting shoreline alterations that degrade water quality.

The pressure on Maine's lakes continues to increase with continued development. While necessary for the state economy, current regulations around shoreland zoning are written with the assumption of good faith on the part of landowners, meaning that the state and municipalities extend trust to landowners in the matter of applying for permits, in accurately specifying the work to be done, in waiting for approval, and for completing the work specified in the manner specified. It is unfortunate that some landowners abuse this trust and fail to recognize their shoreland as part of a larger ecosystem we must work to conserve for the common good.

In light of this sad reality, and with recognition that pursuing legal action against shoreland zoning violations is costly in terms of both money and time, I urge you to support LD 2101. This Act gives the state and municipalities much needed tools to halt shoreland damage and recover funds spent in action against violators. The provisions of LD 2101 are both directly useful in ongoing enforcement, and a deterrent to landowners considering an, "Act first, ask for permit later," approach.

Thank you,
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