



February 6, 2025

To: Maine State Legislature

From: Megunticook Watershed Association

Re: LD 296: An Act to Appropriate Funds to the Department of Environmental Protection, Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund

Please support LD 296. For decades, Megunticook Watershed Association has been monitoring water quality in our 31-acre watershed that contains Megunticook Lake, Norton Pond, Moody Pond, and Levenseller Pond, as well the Megunticook River that flows into Penobscot Bay. This vitally important work is at the heart of our commitment to stewarding and preserving these ecologically fragile resources. It is not only of interest to protect the water quality in the watershed for environmental reasons, but also for fiscal ones. In a recent study, the University of Maine noted the economic value of Maine's Great Ponds at over 14 billion dollars per year.

While we continue to carry out water quality testing throughout our watershed in several programs, we are consistently under-funded to expand this work. Our watershed, along with many others throughout the state need full-scale watershed surveys to identify the problems and provide quick solutions. The expansion of property development, recreational use, and changing weather patterns mean there is increasing threats to Maine's Great Ponds and the lands around them. Without dedicated funding, we will be sorely under-resourced to prevent and mitigate impending issues that will have far-reaching effects throughout the state.

Abby Kidder

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