Elizabeth Trehu
Vienna
LD 296

Letter in Support of LD 296

I live in Vienna, Maine, in close proximity to Parker Pond and Minnehonk Lake, and my family owns a camp on Flying Pond, where I am a member of the Flying Pond Improvement Association Board and my husband and I are members of the Lake Smart Team and the Invasive Plant Patrol Team. I am also the representative from Vienna on the board of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association. I urge you to support LD 296, An Act to Appropriate Funds to the Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund. In my opinion, the $4M over two years that is requested falls far short of what is really needed. Our watershed association works tirelessly not only to prevent and treat invasive plant infestations and monitor water quality, but to obtain grants on behalf of our members towns and lake associations. For example, we obtained grants for Androscoggin Lake to help with eradication of variable milfoil and to address the run-off of nutrients responsible for the green algae bloom that has occurred for the last several summers and made the lake dangerous for water sports of all kinds.   My town of Vienna depended on 30 Mile to obtain grants to develop engineering plans for road improvements to prevent the road wash outs and subsequent visible and disastrous run-off into Flying Pond and Parker Pond. Another grant will be required to actually fund the work. We ask the lake associations and towns for financial support, but these are small towns with limited resources, and despite their contributions and those of generous donors, our work to keep our lakes clean and healthy would be impossible without state and federal funding. In recent weeks, federal funding appears to be at risk, so support from the state is even more critical. Waterfront property constitutes a major percentage of the tax base in my area, and the health of our lakes is essential to the quality of life and fiscal health of our towns. Please support LD 296 to help protect our watersheds and our way of life.