

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of LD 271
An Act to Enhance Protections Regarding Invasive Aquatic Plants in inland Waters of
State
February 12, 2025

My name is John Stanek. I reside in West Gardiner, ME on the shore of Lake Cobbosseecontee and sit on the Board of Directors of the Cobbosseecontee Lake Association (CLA). Our mission is to preserve and protect Lake Cobbosseecontee. Our association has grown from 300 members to over 700 in a very short time because of concerns about Invasive Aquatic Plants and water quality issues. I can say with assurance that our membership would support this legislation but I only speak for myself here.

Cobbossee is one of the 37 lakes in Maine that have active infestations and the CLA has been thoroughly engaged in its management. But we need help and the provisions in this legislation take a step in the right direction. Monitoring inland lakes that are infested with invasive aquatic plants and strengthening watercraft inspection protocols at those inland lakes is needed desperately. A boat that is travelling from one infested lake to another not YET infested is the primary way infestations occur. As one of our members said to me, "it did n't happen by Divine Conception".

Reviewing Surface Use Restriction Policies between agencies is also a welcomed good step. Cobbossee has had (and has) SUR's and the CLA has been confounded by the existing protocols in our efforts to manage our IAP infestations. Besides watercraft inspections it is a very good tool and should be more easily managed.

This LD is a common sense approach that should receive the committee's support.

Thank you,

John Stanek