

**Testimony in SUPPORT LD 296, An Act to Appropriate Funds to the
Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund
Submitted to Environment and Natural Resources Committee**

February 12, 2025

Good morning, Chair Tepler, Chair Doudera, and Distinguished Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

My name is William H. MacDonald, and I live in Farmington, Maine, I am a board member of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association, past President and founder of the Kimball Pond Association where I have a summer camp that I helped my father and mother build in 1959. My wife and I now own that camp and enjoy having it to enjoy with all our family members including our great grandchildren. Kimball Pond has always been and continues to be very clean, clear and refreshing pond to enjoy. We are concerned with the threat of invasive plants that could change it forever if not caught in time by watercraft inspections and educating the public and boat owners of the need to understand the need to keep invasive plants from being transported into other bodies of water in our state.

We all are concerned with the quality of the water in all of Maine lakes and ponds which is why we are writing in support of LD 296. This bill helps reduce the risk of aquatic invasive species spread by focusing on key management actions on infested lakes. You are all I am sure aware that invasive aquatic plants pose a serious risk to Maine's inland waters. They outcompete native plants, with potentially devastating effects on aquatic ecosystems, water quality, native wildlife and fisheries, recreational opportunities, and property values.

Maine has so far not seen the more devastating invasive species outbreaks plaguing our neighboring states to the west and south. That is because of much hard work over the last two decades by Maine's lake organizations, lake associations, and many thousands of volunteers, as

well as by the, and Environment and Natural Resources Committee by legislators like you who have repeatedly supported this work, both with funds and with forward-thinking, proactive lake policies. This work has benefited Maine residents and visitors, municipal budgets and local economies, property owners, summer camps, anglers, swimmers, boaters and most importantly lakes, their wildlife, and their ecological functions.

I support appropriate Funds to the Department of Environmental Protection, Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund by providing one-time funding of \$4million over two years for projects that meet specific criteria and improve or maintain the quality of lake waters in the State.