

Cynthia Ripley
30 Mile River Watershed Association
LD 296

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

I am writing to urge your support of LD 296, a bill that will direct \$4 million dollars
over the next two years to the Lake Water Quality
Restoration and Protection Fund at DEP.

Clean, clear water is important to our family. We have enjoyed Maine lakes for over
60 years, including summering on Flying Pond. Maintaining the quality of the water
in our lakes and ponds not only benefits the many people who travel and vacation
here, but also those who work to support the vacation economy. Our ponds are being
impacted by increased use, water quality challenges, and increased algae in our
shallow waters. Investing this money to help preserve our lakes will help ensure that
future generations will continue to enjoy them.

Lake Associations and property owners do what they can to help protect against
invasive plants, erosion, stormwater runoff and more. We also bear the financial
responsibility for trying to protect and restore them.

This Bill would provide much needed financial support for maintaining clean water
before it's too late.

I volunteer for the LakeSmart program on our pond. Our team meets with landowners
to help them learn ways to prevent erosion and runoff on their property. LakeSmart
supports landowners with education and planning, but financial support to help the
property owners carry out these recommendations is lacking.

This money would provide much needed support in a critical time for our lakes and
ponds. Please support LD 296 to help restore and protect the quality of the water in
our Maine lakes.