

kimberly hallee  
Waterville  
LD 646

PLEASE SUPPORT LD 646: Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unregulated Storm Water Pollution. In our twelve plus years of involvement as Lake Citizen Scientists we have become very aware that Storm water pollution is a growing threat to Maine's waterways. The 319 funds that our lake association has received from the EPA's Clean Water Act Funding and managed by our MEDEP are often used to remediate poorly constructed washed out roads or driveways and improperly sized culverts. More frequent and intense rainstorms erode soils, washing pollutants - which may include bacteria, pesticides, toxic chemicals, and excess nutrients - from across the watershed into lakes, rivers, and streams. Nutrient pollution is especially worrisome for our lakes, as it feeds algal growth, which can result in a "bloom" that turns otherwise clear blue water green, smelly, and potentially unsafe for people and pets. A recent Alum treatment in East Pond and one planned for North Pond-water bodies of the Belgrade Lakes chain are million-dollar expenses, the pea soup algal growth no doubt a result of storm water pollution. Prevention expenses are far less costly than remediation outlay! The Commission should identify gaps in Maine's storm water rules and plug them up. Cost effective, science-backed solutions to prevent pollution must be identified. A bipartisan working group should lay Important groundwork for stronger protection for our waters that will benefit Maine's people, our wildlife and sporting heritage, and our economy. Thank you. Kimberly and David Hallee, McGrath Pond Salmon Lake Association LakeSmart Evaluators and Water Quality Monitor.