

Cynthia Ripley  
30 Mile River Watershed Association  
LD 646

I am writing to request that you support this bill to create a bipartisan Study Commission to identify the next steps Maine can take to address unregulated stormwater pollution. We now have more intense weather events and many more people using our beautiful lakes. We cannot afford to risk the health and safety of Maine's lakes, ponds, and streams caused by stormwater runoff.

The waters in Maine are not only important for recreation, but for wildlife as well as the economy. Our family has summered here for 4 generations, enjoying the pristine waters of Flying Pond in Vienna. We, along with countless others, come here to enjoy the lakes and surrounding environment. We have, however, noticed changes over the years and now see more and more algae in the coves each summer.

I am a LakeSmart volunteer and work to educate property owners, finding ways that they can prevent stormwater runoff carrying phosphorous and other pollutants into the lake. I am also an active member of the Board of 30 Mile River Watershed Association, where our mission is to work "together with the community for clean and healthy lakes, ponds, and streams in our watershed."

Stronger protections and attention to stormwater runoff makes sense as we work to keep our lakes healthy for future generations. Prevention is far more cost effective than remediation would ever be. Please vote to support LD 646 so that we can strengthen protections and preserve our beloved Maine lakes.

Thank you for your consideration.