

Marvin Ellison
Portland
LD 646

Dear Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Marvin Ellison, and I live in Portland. I'm a summer resident on Georges Pond in Franklin and serve as treasurer of the Georges Pond Association.

I'm writing to express my strong support for LD 646.

Stormwater pollution has been a major problem for Georges Pond. In 2018 and 2019, we experienced a series of algae blooms that threatened the lake's water quality and posed a serious health risk to people and wildlife. The first order of business was to work with qualified water scientists to diagnose the problem, which we discovered results from large amounts of phosphorous in the lake due to excessive stormwater runoff.

Fortunately, we were able to work with Maine water experts and then raise funds to treat the pond. However, many other communities around the State are still scrambling to deal with the problem and find effective ways to minimize stormwater runoff.

The establishment of a study commission would be an important first step in addressing this widespread environmental challenge.

I urge you to support LD 646 and will help protect Maine's waters for future generations.

Sincerely,

Marvin Ellison, Treasurer, Georges Pond Association
122 Neal Street, Portland ME 04102