

Nancy Hemphill
30 Mike River Watershed Association
LD 646

My family has had a camp on Flying Pond in Mt Vernon for 60 years. We are seasonal residents, but we are very engaged in the community. We belong to our lake association; I serve on the board of 30 Mile River Watershed Association; my husband is a courtesy boat inspector; and we do other volunteer work in the area. We have a strong stake and commitment to Maine.

I respectfully request that you support LD 646. Maine is experiencing more severe storms which are washing out roads and sending pollutants into our lakes and streams. In addition to the phosphorus that naturally occurs in the soil, this runoff may contain oil, gas, chemicals, fertilizers and other substances that do not belong in our lakes.

This issue is bigger than one town, community, lake association or watershed group can handle on its own. We need a statewide approach to study the issue and to bring science and resources to create solutions to protect our waters.

Maine's fresh waters support wildlife, recreation and tourism, and provide an iconic background for the state. People who live on or near these lakes also pay an outside share of local property taxes that support local needs like schools. If Maine's lakes become despoiled, property values and tax revenues may drop, hurting everyone.

I hope the Maine Assembly has the foresight to protect the precious natural resources it has, while there is still time.

Thank you very much.