

William Meserve
Falmouth
LD 1529

My name is William Meserve, and I'm a resident of Falmouth. I am writing to support the adoption of L.D. 1529, which would strengthen protection for remote, undeveloped ponds and save stands of older growth forest.

A major attraction of Maine to residents and visitors alike is its remote and pristine lakes and ponds, its dark and fragrant forests, its abundant wildlife and its brilliant dark night skies. Once lost, these will be gone for at least a couple of lifetimes, if not forever. Preserving these remote areas, which are quite unique in their scale and ecological diversity, should be one of our highest priorities.

To see the relatively few remaining areas of old growth forest and late succession forest cut indiscriminately would be a major loss to Maine, and seeing the shore around remote lakes and ponds carved into building lots for summer camps or year round homes, with the accompanying noise and pollution they bring, would be a tragedy that we all would come to regret. Moreover, these older growth forests store large quantities of carbon, thereby helping to reduce the serious impact of climate change — a result that will benefit us all.

For hunters, fishermen, hikers, campers, paddlers, snowmobilers and Nordic skiers, these remote and peaceful areas have become undisturbed sanctuaries, remote from the turmoil of the outside world. They nurture fish, like native brook trout, provide a home for moose, pine martens, and even Canadian lynx and are a sanctuary for both native and migratory birds. We are extremely fortunate to have places like this so readily accessible, and we all would come to regret their loss. Future generations will thank all of us for helping to preserve these special places, which is why I enthusiastically support this bill. I hope you will too.