

Nancy Hemphill
30 Mile River Watershed Association
LD 1435

I respectfully request the committee to support this bill.

My family has had a camp on Flying Pond in Kennebec County for 60 years. Although we are seasonal residents, my husband and I are deeply invested in the community, supporting local organizations with our time, talents and treasure. In particular, we are members of our lake association and I serve on the Board of 30 Mile River Watershed Association. We do this because we love our lake and want it to be accessible and beloved for all Mainers for generations to come.

30 Mile is using every means possible to reach people who enjoy our lakes with crucial information on how to protect them. We have a newsletter and send emails to those already in our community. But it is difficult to broaden that reach. Many Mainers enjoy day trips to boat, paddle, or fish, but they aren't all members of lake protection groups.

Signs posted at boat launches remind users how to keep waterways clean for all. Education and engagement are critical in protecting our beloved freshwaters. Adding a small amount of space to IF&W signs would be a cost effective and meaningful approach.

Thank you for your support.