To:	Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair		
	Representative Michele Meyer, Chair		
	Members of the Health and Human Services Committee		
From:	Gary Brink	and	Kezar Lake Watershed Association
	107 Andrews Lane		P.O. Box 88
	Lovell, ME 04051		Lovell, ME 04051
Re:	Testimony LD 1550 – Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to an		
	its rules to protect water quality by reducing nutrient pollution from septic systems.		
D	4 00 05	-	

Date: 4-20-25

We support LD 1550 as it is a simple and cost neutral way to 1) ensure the quality of our drinking water and 2) protect the large tax revenues our local towns receive from shoreland properties which in many cases make up the vast majority of local tax revenues.

Water Quality and local tax revenues

_ The quality of the lake water in our town is one of the major reasons for the high home values in the shoreland zone

Shoreland homes provide 70% of the tax revenue our town

_ Septic systems are one of the largest sources of nutrient pollutants for lakes and can dramatically affect water quality.

_ Too many nutrients from septic systems can cause algae blooms that are dangerous to humans and wildlife and negatively affect the recreational experience of a lake.

_ Algae blooms also cause large drops in day trips to lakes, decreasing local revenues and putting local businesses at risk.

_Significant algae blooms on a lake can reduce property values by over 35%.

_ If property values decrease, tax revenues can dramatically decrease with disastrous effects upon the viability of a town

We need to protect the tax base in our towns and our local revenues by proactively protecting our lakes with this simple and extremely cost neutral solution.

Drinking water

_48% of water consumed by Mainers come from surface sources and aquifers provide the rest

_ These sources can be affected by the "short circuiting" of septic systems and toxic pathogens can enter the system

This bill protects the water supply by ensuring that septic systems function properly by being located on soils suitable for preventing "short circuits".