

Carla Mulhern
Penobscot, ME
LD 1382

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 1382. As a property owner on Toddy Pond in Penobscot Maine for many years and prior to that a seasonal renter with strong family ties to the area, I am very familiar with the benefits that Toddy Pond brings to the residents of and visitors to the four towns surrounding the lake - Orland, Penobscot, Surry and Blue Hill.

These benefits include economic benefits associated with increased property values and the associated higher tax base, an increase in business activity for all types of commerce including grocery, retail, outdoor activities, home rental and entertainment. As a professional economist, using an approach taken by the University of Maine to estimate the value of Maine lakes collectively, I estimate that Toddy Pond alone contributes more than 80 million dollars of value to the local economy. In addition to the economic value which is considerable, the social and cultural value cannot be overstated. Toddy Pond forms the basis of priceless family memories for the residents of and visitors to the 500+ homes on the Pond.

The creation of a fund which could provide loans to the towns and property owners that will assume ownership of the dam will greatly enhance the ability of those entities to preserve Toddy Pond for future generations. Thus, I strongly support this legislation.

Respectfully,

Carla Mulhern
carlamulhern@gmail.com
364 Gus Moore Rd.
Penobscot, ME 04476