

William (Bill) Booth
Oxford
LD 2141

To: Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources

I am writing in support of LD 2141 especially as it relates to funding for the Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund under section 480-N.

I am a resident of Maine and a member on the Thompson Lake Environmental Association Board of Directors, in Oxford, Maine. Thompson Lake is a 4,419-acre lake located in the towns of Oxford, Poland, Otisfield and Casco.

Since 2008, TLEA has managed dive teams who have removed over 588 tons of variable-leaf milfoil, either by hand-pulling or by tarping dense infestations. Regrowth is a constant threat and we have been fortunate to receive some state funding in the past, and will likely need additional help in the future. This Fund could help with that need.

Additionally, TLEA completed a survey of the lake's entire 35.3 square mile watershed and in partnership with the Cumberland County, Oxford County and Androscoggin Soil and Water Conservation Districts and identified 299 sites where nonpoint pollution runoff was affecting the quality of the lake water. TLEA applied for and received one Federal 319 Grant and undertook two years of remediation, but has recently learned that this federal grant program has been cancelled. Act No. 2141 would provide funds to help continue working with land owners and Towns to remediate their erosion issues affecting Thompson Lake.

Preserving Maine lake water quality is important for the wildlife, the native fish habitats, for the surrounding economy and for the preservation of our overall environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Bill Booth