

Cameron Lane
Portland
LD 2141

Every year in Maine, an estimated \$16 million in bottle deposits go unclaimed. Unlike in other states who use unclaimed bottle deposit funds to serve a public purpose, those funds are currently retained by the beverage industry and are not being used to address the needs of our state. Instead direct some of those bottle deposit funds to farmland protection and lake restoration efforts!

LD 2141, creates a stream of ongoing, dedicated funding specifically for farmland conservation by directing \$2 million annually from Maine's unclaimed beverage container deposits toward the state's established Working Farmland Access and Protection Program.

Farmland in Maine is falling out of production faster than conservation efforts can respond. This funding would bolster farmland protection efforts to ensure that Maine farmers have the land they need to farm now and in the future.

Please support LD 2141. It just makes sense!