

Maria Cruz  
Three Mile Pond Association  
LD 2141

To whom it may concern:

I am a long-time board member of the Three Mile Pond Association and a Maine Audubon volunteer with the Loon Restoration Project since its inception. My husband and I own a beautiful home on Three Mile Pond and we pay a fair share of property taxes to the town of China and income taxes to the state of Maine. We have done a tremendous amount of shoreline restoration work on our property since we purchased it thirteen years ago and are now Lake Smart members. We also pay dues to the China Regional Lakes Alliance through the Three Mile Pond Association that go towards boat inspections at the Vassalboro boat launch. Even though it's just the two of us, we also get our septic system flushed every three years to prevent lake contamination. We use no fertilizers or pesticides on our property.

As you can see, we do everything possible to protect Three Mile Pond that we, as homeowners, can possibly do. We, however, cannot control run-off from irresponsible lake-front homeowners or farms in the watershed. Despite many dedicated homeowners and volunteers, Three Mile Pond is in trouble. We may have to do a phosphorus restoration treatment in the next few years and have begun the process necessary towards that end. Since all bodies of water in Maine belong to all the people of Maine, the state needs to help. We can't do it all by ourselves.

I am urging the members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee to pass LD 2141 to provide two million dollars annually to the DEP's Lake Water Quality Protection and Restoration Fund.

Maria Cruz  
Association  
Vassalboro

Treasurer, Three Mile Pond

Windsor, China,