

Ryan Gross
Windsor
LD 2141

The Three Mile Pond Association strongly supports LD 2141 and the proposal to direct a portion of unclaimed beverage container deposits to the Lake Water Quality Restoration & Protection Fund. Three Mile Pond is enjoyed by many residents in the towns of Windsor, Vassalboro, and South China. People utilize the lake for swimming, boating, fishing among other activities. Like many Maine lakes, it faces ongoing threats from phosphorus loading, stormwater runoff, aging culverts, and increased development pressure. Our association is made up of volunteers who work to monitor water quality, educate property owners, and protect the long-term health of the lake, but the scale of these challenges far exceeds what local fundraising alone can support.

Stable, dedicated public funding is essential to protecting Maine's lakes before they become more impaired. The investments supported by LD 2141—such as watershed surveys, in-lake restoration, alum treatments, technical assistance, and increased DEP capacity—would allow lake associations like ours to move from reactive responses to proactive protection. Using unredeemed bottle deposits for lake and farmland protection ensures these public funds are reinvested in public goods that benefit all Maine people. We urge the Environment and Natural Resources Committee to support LD 2141 and help safeguard Maine's lakes for future generations.

-The Three Mile Pond Association Board