

Jade Doyle

Casco

LD 2141

LD 2141

Testimony to support LD 2141, ENR Committee
2026

February 2,

To: Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources

My name is Jade Doyle. I live in Casco, and I am a board member of Thompson Lake Environmental Association (TLEA). Through my work with TLEA and as a resident on Thompson Lake, I see the value of and strongly support LD 2141 as it relates to funding for the Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund within section 480-N which has the potential to fund very important lake protection initiatives.

Thompson Lake is bordered by the towns of Casco, Otisfield, Oxford and Poland. The lake has been classified as threatened by the Maine DEP due to erosion caused by shore land development. Additionally, the lake became infested with the invasive plant variable leaf milfoil in the early 1980s. Both are significant threats to the water quality and natural beauty of the lake. Obtaining necessary financial resources for the protection of Thompson Lake is a year round effort, raising funds through dues, donations and government grants. TLEA has recently learned important federal 319 grant funds used to mitigate erosion have been eliminated. The lake is a valuable resource to the four towns that border its shores in terms of tax revenue and recreation. Overall, the quality of the lakes in the state drive the state's summer economy through airline ticket sales, car rentals, cottage and boat rentals, restaurant sales, not to mention the summer camp economy. The health of the state's lakes is crucial to continued support of this economy.

On a personal level, Thompson Lake has become a sanctuary for my family. Our grown children have pursued lives and careers elsewhere in the US. Yet every summer they return for their time on the lake, now bringing their young children, teaching them to swim, take kayak and boat rides and generally take in the peace and natural beauty of the lake. This is true for so many Maine parents with adult children living in other states who return to the state every summer. As parents we hope they will return to the state more permanently and it is up to us to ensure Maine remains a place they want to return to. The natural beauty of the state will be an important driver of this.

A few million dollars returned to the coffers of large corporations is a drop in the bucket to their financial stability. But those same few million dollars, with Maine's thriftiness, will go a long way to protecting Maine's water quality, a crucial natural resource that is under constant threat. LD 2141 could have a significant impact to protecting our lakes.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important bill.