

Katie Greenman
Orland
LD 2141

February 2, 2026

Testimony: LD 2141: An Act to Direct a Portion of Unclaimed Beverage Container Deposits to the Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund

Dear Sen. Tepler and Rep. Doudera and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

As a resident on lake property for which I consider myself a steward, LD2141 is of special importance to me.

I urge you to Vote "ought to pass."

For over 12 years, my husband and I have been very involved with Alamoosook Lake Water Quality Monitoring as members of the Alamoosook Lake Association, certified volunteers by Lake Stewards of Maine and members of LSM and Maine Lakes. We have been immersed in the necessity of keeping data over the long term to monitor lake health in terms of transparency, temperature and dissolved oxygen. Additionally, we submit water samples in July, August and September for the Health and Environmental Testing Lab (HETL) to determine levels of Total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a. Coordinating the Alamoosook All Clear Team of volunteers to survey the lake for invasive aquatic plants is another of my responsibilities.

We are among hundreds of other citizen scientists volunteering their time on lakes in Maine and who value the monitoring process to preserve lakes for future generations of Mainers.

The training and workshops Lake Stewards provides is invaluable. We have also relied on Maine's DEP's expertise during a season of questionable infestation which required onsite visits with staff including a diver, specialized equipment, and exacting protocol.

We know that DEP is short-staffed. We know there are many lakes in Maine without active lake associations that deserve baseline analysis and monitoring, others that need phosphorus reduction treatments and culvert replacement. Watershed surveys are needed to assess threats to water quality. Research is needed to stay abreast of emerging threats. Funds are needed to provide the technical assistance and education needed to implement best management practices.

LD2141 would earmark some available funds for a vital Maine resource—its lakes: for habitat, recreational swimming, boating, fishing, scenery and mental health for all of Maine residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Katie M. Greenman
Orland, Maine