

February 3, 2026

Senator Brenner, Representative Bridgeo, and members of the committee:

My name is Sarah Fagg and I live on Togus Pond in Augusta and am in support of LD 2141 that would provide **\$2 million annually to the DEP's Lake Water Quality Protection and Restoration Fund**, not just as a policy matter, but as someone who has lived the reality of what it takes to restore a lake.

Togus Pond is a place my community deeply cares about. Like many lakes across Maine, it has struggled with excess phosphorus and declining water quality and is on Maine's List of Impaired Lakes. Our goal is to be removed from that list.

With a grant from a previous DEP-supported bill LD 164, our lake association was able to move forward with a **second alum treatment scheduled for this April**, a step that gives us real hope for the future of the pond.

What often gets overlooked is the human effort behind projects like this. I currently serve on the Worromontogus Lake Association Board and have volunteered my time to help lead the fundraising needed to cover the remaining costs, and it was not easy. It meant years of conversations, follow-ups, explaining complex science in plain language, and asking people, sometimes repeatedly, for help. There were moments when it felt uncertain whether we would get there.

That experience made something very clear to me: local volunteers care deeply and are willing to step up, but there are real limits to what volunteer-run lake associations can carry on their own. Without state support, many communities simply can't move projects like this forward, no matter how much they care.

State funding works alongside community commitment, strengthening what volunteers are already doing. It allows people who are already giving their time and energy to turn concern into action, before problems worsen and costs grow even higher.

Providing \$2 million annually to the DEP's Lake Water Quality Protection and Restoration Fund is a thoughtful, smart, and preventative investment. It recognizes both the value of Maine's lakes and the people who work quietly and persistently to protect them.

For these reasons, and from personal experience, I urge support for this bill.

Thank you for your commitment to protecting Maine's waters.

Sarah Fagg

Augusta, ME