

Dear Committee Members,

As president of the Hancock & Sand Ponds Association in Denmark, I would like to lend our organization's support for Bill LD 2141, which will have a public hearing before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee on Feb. 4.

Since the funding will come from unredeemed bottle deposits, we believe that that the money should be considered public funds that should be used for the public good.

Many non-profit lake associations rely on state cost-share grants to support their programs. For example, last year we received a DEP cost-share grant of \$3,500 to help fund our courtesy boat inspection program, without which we could not afford to pay inspectors this summer on weekends from June through mid-October.

The estimated \$2 million annually that the bill would provide to the DEP's Lake Water Quality Protection and Restoration Fund will help organizations such as ours to expand our efforts to protect and preserve the precious resource of Maine's lakes now and for future generations.

Sincerely,

Joseph Nagy
President
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