

3 February 2026

Dear Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I am writing today to strongly encourage this committee to support LD2141, *“An Act to Direct a Portion of Unclaimed Beverage Container Deposits to the Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund, the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program and Public Defender Office Staffing”*

This important piece of legislation offers innovative ways for those of us in Maine to support two major priorities. The first is protecting our state’s water quality through enhanced research, lake education, and more. And the second is preserve and enhance strategically significant working farmland throughout Maine.

These goals are great steps forward in supporting Maine’s conservation ethic and also bolstering local economies that depend on healthy and sustainable tourism, agriculture, and other environmentally oriented activities.

A significant plus to the proposed legislation is that it will utilize a source of funding that has no impact on Maine’s general fund, helping to keep these activities sustainable long into the future.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Mark Pokras
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