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February 3, 2026

Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Room 216, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine

Re: LD 2141

Dear Committee Members:

Our extended family has been coming to Lake Androscoggin during the summers since the 1930s. Our favorite time of the year in Maine is September and October. The lake is beautiful, the fishing is good, and the scene is incredibly tranquil. This year, as last year, we could not go **at all** during this time because the algae bloom numbers were so high that the Lake was unsuitable for fishing, bathing, or even using lake water for showering or toothbrushing.

To watch the slow but seemingly inexorable march of algae blooms on our beloved Lake is heartbreaking. At the same time, it is a sobering lesson for all lakes in Maine. With an aggressive preventive program, we would have been able to keep Lake Androscoggin healthy and not face an extraordinary and expensive program of rehabilitation.

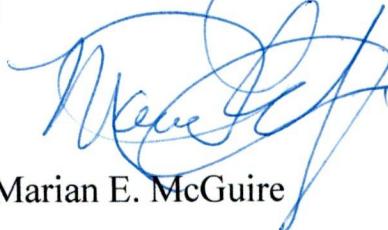
We recognize and applaud that the Maine DEP works hard to protect lakes and support lake groups, but this important agency is underfunded and understaffed. The funding from this bill could create one or more positions at the agency to support lake protection work. It could also increase enforcement of existing shoreline zoning restrictions that protect water quality. Or, it could help repair and replace antiquated septic systems that are an important source of pollution would be incredibly timely.

Increasing the resiliency of Maine lakes is a sound investment against threats from climate change and protection of the \$14 billion annually that is generated from the wonderful lake system in our state. Please vote in favor of this very reasonable statutory proposal.

Thank you for your time.



Charles S Crandall



Marian E. McGuire