

Testimony in Favor of Passage of LD 2141

One has only to be stuck in traffic driving over the Piscataqua River bridge, to know that tourism is an economic driver in Maine. They come for our rocky shores, our mountains and our lakes. Maine's beauty and natural resources are worthy of protection. I am the coordinator of the Invasive Plant Patrol program on Toddy Pond, in Hancock County. A cadre of about 30 volunteers easily spent 150 hours surveying a portion of our lake last summer. But the dedicated volunteers of IPP along with volunteers doing CBI (Courtesy Boat Inspection) can not protect Maines' lakes without the financial support of the State and other organizations. Using the unclaimed bottle deposits to fund DEP's Lake Water Quality Protection and Restoration Fund is a appropriate use of monies to support Maines' lakes. I urge you to pass this bill - for Mainers and future generations to come, to preserve the economic benefit and to preserve the diversity of wildlife and native plants that call these waters home.

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The above document submitted is in support of LD 2141