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Berry, Dexter, Wilson Ponds Watershed Association, Wayne
LD 2141

As someone who has spent decades swimming, boating, skating, and skiing on Maine's beautiful lakes, I have been fortunate to grow up with access to these remarkable waters. Over the years, however, I have seen increasing stress on our lakes due to climate change and development, leading to issues such as algal blooms and declining water quality.

Beyond the health and wellness benefits they provide, Maine's lakes are also a critical economic driver for the state, with an estimated economic impact of over \$14 billion annually. Healthy lakes are essential to strong local economies and vibrant communities.

It is vital that we protect these waters for today's residents and for future generations. Establishing a dedicated source of annual funding will support the work needed to safeguard Maine's lakes, ensuring clean drinking water, sustaining local economies, and preserving recreational opportunities for everyone to enjoy.

Please support the passage of LD 2141 to protect Maine's lakes and the communities that depend on them.