

Carole Dembek  
Winthrop  
LD 2141

February 4, 2026

RE: Support for LD 2141:

Dear Committee Members,

I am a full-time resident of Winthrop and a small business owner. I am writing in support of LD 2141, An Act to Enhance Protections for and Better Address Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations in Inland Waters of the State.

Beautiful, clean lakes are a defining characteristic of Maine. Our pristine lakes provide important breeding habitat for loons and other wildlife. From an economic perspective, our lakes are a key driver of tourism which accounts for millions of dollars of state revenue each year.

Invasive plant species are a major threat to the health of our inland lakes. Several lakes in and around Winthrop including Androscoggin, Cobbessee, and Annabessacook are battling invasive milfoil and the cost of that treatment is substantial. Lake Associations do not have enough funding to combat invasive plant species so the money from unclaimed bottle deposits could be used to treat and restore these lakes. Using the unclaimed bottle deposits in this way would directly benefit the public and our wildlife that depend on clean and healthy lakes.

I urge you to support LD 2141 to safeguard the health of our lakes for all of us and future generations.