

Tom Renckens
Augusta-Togus Pond
LD 2141

My Name is Tom Renckens and I stand firmly in support of LD 2141. Our lakes are literally irreplaceable. Many are largely being managed by a small hard working cadre of volunteers. Our lake is in this category. As a resident of Augusta on Togus Pond we were the recipients of Representative Bridgeo's recent bill to help us mitigate frequent algae blooms. But we still had to raise \$600,000 and it took a massive effort by our volunteers. However, threats to the lake are ongoing. It is estimated that we have 400 kilos of phosphorus on the bottom of our Pond. This is what has caused our algae blooms. We hope that the treatment will mitigate the green unhealthy blooms for 15-20 years. But we can't be sure. But if we get Variable milfoil into our lake our lake will effectively be decimated. I understand that Cobbossee lake in Manchester is paying \$1,000,000 a year to keep it at bay. Not eradicate it just maintain it. These lakes belong to all Mainers and deserve all the support we can give them. Some lakes in Maine can afford to raise the massive amounts of money to deal with these threats. But lakes without paid staff, university support or a coalition of watershed lakes are effectively orphans. We are at the mercy of a careless fisherman who accidentally brings an invasive species into our lake on their equipment or the past unregulated farming and septic systems of the day. It seems to me a small charge to use some bottle money to help struggling lakes so that all can enjoy them in perpetuity.

Thanks,
Tom Renckens