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My name is John Tucci. I have a 60-year family history and connection to Lake Androscoggin in Wayne. It is the special place that our parents who purchased property on Lake Androscoggin 60 years ago chose for their final resting place. It is also the place where I spent my Summers as a youth and the place that formed my outlook on the environment and indeed my place in the world.

My passion for lakes born on the waters of Lake Androscoggin led me to form an organization dedicated to Lake and Watershed Restoration. Our focus is primarily in States and Regions of the Country that did not act early to protect and preserve its healthy lakes or commit the resources necessary to restore impaired lakes in time. I speak from experience when I say "the longer you wait to address lake problems the harder it is to succeed and the more expensive the effort".

Maine is to be commended on its stewardship and protection of its Natural Resources including its beautiful inland lakes. Unfortunately, the severity of the crisis degrading freshwater resources is accelerating at an unfathomably rapid pace.

Lake Androscoggin is a perfect example of both the hope and potential tragedy facing Maine Lakes. The lake experienced the first toxic algae bloom in its history in the 1990's. Rapid, thoughtful and committed action by the local communities supported by the State acted and implemented significant improvements to the pollution control structure separating the lake from the Androscoggin River. As a result, the lake and the community benefitted from two decades of improved water quality and lake health.

Unfortunately, with pressures from climate change, pollution from far away wildfires and the spread of invasive species, this iconic lake is in trouble once again.

As the crisis has accelerated more and more of Maine's treasured lakes will come under threat. The need is urgent. By acting now with a sustainable funding approach Maine can deliver the help needed to improve, protect and preserve these treasured resources for generations to come. Creating a model for the country that proves yet again that Maine delivers on its promise of "The Way Life Should Be"!