

John Russell  
Bucksport  
LD 2070

I am a lifelong Mainer and I've chosen to remain in this state and make it my home and that of our family because of its natural beauty and natural resources. The people who live here are dedicated stewards of our natural environments and resources. I am a hunter and fisherman.

For these reasons I am writing in support of LD 2070.

Freshwater wetlands are vital ecosystems that support environmental health and human activities. Don't let JBL trash more land.

There are so many benefits to wetlands (listed below are a few)

- They improve water quality and enhance groundwater - filter sediment, absorb pollutants, trap harmful nutrients and chemicals
- They control flood risks and downstream damage - absorb stormwater, prevent erosion and stabilize streambanks with vegetation
- They provide habitat for diverse wildlife species - support over 1/3 of all threatened and endangered species in the US, including amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals
- They capture carbon to help mitigate climate change, improve air quality - absorb millions of tons of carbon dioxide annually in plant communities and soil
- They provide recreational opportunities - offer spaces for hiking, fishing, bird watching, kayaking: which in turn helps our economy and enhances our health and well-being

Thank you for your time  
John Russell