MWUA
Maine Water Utilities Association
Organized 1925

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January 30, 2023

Honorable Stacy Brenner, Senate Chair
Honorable Lori Gramlich, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: ***Testimony in Support of LD 164, An Act To Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund***

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

The Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 164, An Act to Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund.

About MWUA. The Maine Water Utilities Association is a nonprofit association based in Augusta that provides support for water works professionals throughout the State of Maine in advocating for safe drinking water through educational and technical programming as well as advocacy on the local, state, and national level. The Association was formed in 1925 and counts approximately 109 water utilities in Maine as members.

Discussion. LD 164 proposes to provide $9 million annually for the Department of Environmental Protection's Lake Restoration and Protection Fund (Fund). A high quality of source water supply is the first line of defense in protecting public health. The Fund could be used to protect or restore water quality in Maine's public water sources. Every investment made in protecting or restoring these supplies greatly aides the ability of water utilities to provide high quality water to the people of Maine.

Beyond drinking water supplies, Maine lakes provide billions of dollars for Maine's economy annually (Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 2023). The ability to improve the quality of lakes that need it and maintain the quality of others is vital for the State of Maine. The ongoing funds that this bill provides is an investment in Maine that MWUA strongly encourages you to support.

Yours for safe drinking water,

Mike Broadbent,
MWUA Legislative Committee
Superintendent, Auburn Water and Sewerage Districts