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**DATE:** February 1, 2024  
**TO:** Senator Tim Nangle, Senate Chair  
Representative Holly Stover, House Chair  
And members of the State & Local Government Committee  
**FROM:** Christopher Hanson, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Raymond  
**RE:** LD 2101 – An Act to Strengthen Code Shoreland Zoning Enforcement  
**POSITION:** In Favor

My name is Christopher Hanson. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of LD 2101. I have been a Code Enforcement Officer since 2006, working for Portland, Raymond, Windham, Poland, and Casco. I am passionate about shoreland zoning and protecting our lakes, rivers, and streams. I have lived in Maine for 68 years and I am a traditional Mainer. I fish, hunt, hike, and live in the Lakes Region. I truly believe that I live and enjoy Maine “the way life should be.” Why would I want to live anywhere else?

Over the years I have seen many violations in the shoreland zone that I have enforced. Tree cutting violations, unpermitted work, sedimentation and erosion control work, illegal beaches. Some violations have been minor and some major, but regardless of size they all contribute to the environmental harm done to Maine’s pristine lakes, rivers, and streams. As a Code Enforcement Officer for a Maine municipality, we have delegated authority to enforce State laws protecting our shorelands. It is very time-consuming and sometimes very frustrating, but more importantly, it’s extremely expensive.

LD 2101 would give Maine municipalities the teeth that we need to expedite enforcement actions and would also serve as a deterrent to prevent many violations from occurring in the first place. Some landowners create violations knowing full well that these activities such as cutting, clearing, or building illegal structures will enhance their property value and are looked at as a cost of doing business. Creating views and artificial environments that are desirable to prospective buyers, for example, clearing trees in front of their home to create the “million-dollar view,” and not paying a price that would discourage this behavior.

LD 2101 would allow the towns to lien a property, revoke permits, and hold owners accountable until the violations are resolved. Our town has spent hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars recently enforcing the Town’s shoreland zoning ordinance which has been made mandatory by the State of Maine. It is truly my hope that this bill passes and that the State and municipalities have more control and options to recover legal bills, fines, and all other costs incurred trying to keep our shorelands pristine and protected for generations to come. Please help us keep Maine “the way life should be.”

I appreciate the opportunity to share my testimony with the Committee. Should any questions arise, please feel free to contact me at (207) 655-4742 x165 or by email: [chris.hanson@raymondmaine.org](mailto:chris.hanson@raymondmaine.org).

Thanks with passion,

Chris Hanson  
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