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Committee on State and Local Government
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
c/o Legislative Information Office
Attn: Alex Cote, Clerk

February 4, 2024

VIA EMAIL: SLG@LEGISLATURE.MAINE.GOV

re LD 2101

Dear Members of the State and Local Government Committee:

This letter is submitted **IN SUPPORT** of LD 2101, which I understand will be taken up by the Committee at a hearing on February 6, 2024 (the "Hearing").

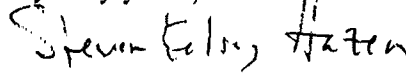
The undersigned became aware of the issues addressed in the pending legislative bill referenced above (the "Bill") during a community meeting held on September 14, 2023 at the Hawthorne House in Raymond, Maine entitled "Protecting Our Waterways." Both Senator Tim Nangle and House Representative Jess Fay, Presenter and Co-Sponsor (respectively) of the Bill, were featured participants in that meeting, which I attended remotely by video.

Members of my family on both the paternal and material sides have owned property in Raymond Township and Casco Township that traces to Captain Joseph Dingley (of whom I am a direct descendant, through the Murch and Kelsey lines) who prevailed in the 1770 race with Dominicus Jordan to establish what became Raymondtown Plantation. The family also has long ties with the Hawthorne House¹ and long commitment to preservation of Maine waterways, specifically including Dingley Brook emptying into Sebago Lake. I have been a seasonal resident of the Lakes Region for most of my life, but I am a year-round resident of California and am unable to attend the Hearing.

I believe that enactment of the Bill materially in its current form would preserve and advance the historical efforts of my ancestors. As an attorney, I also am firmly of the view that the rule of law is seriously undermined when persons can violate rules and regulations of any sort with impunity. That is particularly important to both residents of and visitors to Maine when violation of those regulations comes at the expense of the environment. Enactment of the Bill would constitute a vital step in preventing scofflaws from realizing personal benefits to the detriment of community interests.

I respectfully urge passage and enactment of the Bill.

Very truly yours,


Steven Kelsey Hazen

¹ I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the Hawthorne Community Association (the "Association"), owner and custodian of the Hawthorne House. The views set forth in this letter are solely my own and not those of the Association. My relationship with the Association is provided herein for identification purposes only.