

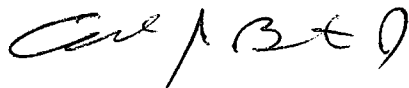
I am 76 years old, born in Maine and have lived here all my life with the exception of 2 years in the army. For the last 52 years I have been a resident of Raymond. In the Fall of 2021, a Raymond property owner destroyed over 500 feet of frontage on Sebago Lake with no permit, apparently to enhance the view and increase his property's value. In 2022, 272 concerned citizens signed a letter supporting the Town of Raymond's efforts to enforce the ordinance and to satisfactorily resolve this matter. For the past two years and four months, the Town of Raymond has been attempting make the owner restore the land to the extent that is possible, to pay a fine for doing the illegal work, to pay for the Town's significant legal costs resulting from its attempts to enforce the Shoreland Ordinance.

In my years living in Raymond, I have seen code violations, but none remotely compares to this blatant attempt to defy the ordinances that have been put in place to protect the waterways of this State. Our Maine waters are a public asset to be enjoyed by all and protected by all. Small towns are currently in the unfortunate position of bearing this burden alone and many towns are unable to incur the associated costs, while wealthy violators often have the assets that allow them to delay until the towns can no longer pay the price to continue.

Raymond is not alone. Other towns have been in similar positions and have been unable to continue. This only encourages others to do the same.

LD 2101 goes a long way to helping Maine towns enforce Shoreland Ordinances and to discourage future abuses. This bill deserves your support.

Thank you,



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