

LD 171, an act to Enhance Protections Regarding Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations in
Inland Waters of the State

Good afternoon Chair Baldacci, Chair Roberts, and distinguished Members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee.

I am Doug Kavanaugh, a lakeshore resident on Pushaw Lake in Orono. I am a Board member of Maine Lakes and the Greater Pushaw Lake Association. I am certified as an invasive Plant Inspector by Lake Stewards of Maine. I have volunteered as a Courtesy Boat Inspector at Goulds Landing for the past two Summers.

I SUPPORT LD 171 as an effort to strengthen our efforts to combat the spread of invasive plants in our lakes and rivers.

We have 37 waterbodies known to be infested with eight species of invasive plants. We know this because of many years of fine cooperative effort by the Department in Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Environmental Protection, town governments, and citizen groups like Maine Lakes, Lake Stewards of Maine, and lake associations and their members. My experience as a Courtesy Boat Inspector assures me that these efforts are supported by the boating community. On every volunteer day, I have been thanked for being there, encouraging them to Clean, Drain and Dry. The boaters of Maine love their lakes. They are aware of the risks posed by invasive species to their current and future enjoyment of the great pleasures they enjoy from our lakes. Risks not only to them, but to their children and grandchildren. My anecdotal experience is that the recommendations cited in LD171, if even noticed by boaters, will be approved and supported by those I have met.

These are common sense measures. It is reasonable to monitor known infestations and assess for mitigation efforts. Even restricting the use of infested areas of certain lakes would not place an intolerable burden on most boaters. Where there are known problems it would be prudent to have rigorous boat inspections at those sites, even if directly funded by the State. The old saying. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" comes to mind.

This is not a bill requesting large expenditures. LD 171 encourages greater vigilance. It advances prevention. I am sure these goals are greatly appreciated by the boaters of Maine.

On their behalf, I SUPPORT LD 171.

Doug Kavanaugh

Maine Lakes