

**Testimony LD 296: An Act to Appropriate Funds to the
Lake Water Restoration and Protection Fund.**

Good morning Chair Tepler, Chair Doudera, and Distinguished Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

My name is Doug Kavanaugh. I am a year-round resident of Orono, residing on the shore of Pushaw Lake. I am on the Board of Maine Lakes and the Greater Pushaw Lake Association. I am the LakeSmart Coordinator for Pushaw Lake, a citizen -to -citizen program to advise and encourage owners of shoreland property to install Best Management Practices to prevent sediment and chemical contamination of our lake. I am certified in invasive plant identification by Lake Stewards of Maine. I have also volunteered as a Courtesy Boat Inspector at Gould's Landing promoting the Clean, Drain, and Dry initiative.

Thank you for this opportunity to strongly SUPPORT LD 296. This bill directs appropriating four million dollars over two years to the Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund. State support is crucially needed to supplement private efforts to reclaim lakes lost to algae blooms. It cost \$1.1 million dollars for alum treatments to East Pond in

2018. They have enjoyed six years of clean water since. However, such treatments have a projected life span of ten years. Just downstream, North Pond is now threatened. The estimated cost of erosion control and alum mitigation is 3.7 million dollars for North Pond. Seven Lakes Alliance, a member of Maine Lakes, is pursuing private and governmental grant support. Hopefully, LD 296 can provide some of the needed funding for North Pond and other failing lakes throughout Maine. In light of current and future mitigation needs, the funding requested in this bill is appropriate.

It is noted that North Pond historically has an active LakeSmart program. LakeSmart evaluations have been valuable in recommending erosion control measures, good septic system practices, and guidelines for installing robust plant borders on the shoreline. Implementation is sometimes hampered by age or health limitations of the owners or the expense of materials and labor. Small grants administered through lake associations would greatly increase the effectiveness of the LakeSmart program.

Another preventive program worthy of support is the Courtesy Boat inspection program. My experience is that this program is enthusiastically supported by the boating public. Virtually every boater knows the threat of invasive

plants in “their” lake. They are universally appreciative of having inspectors at the landing reminding them to Clean, Drain and Dry. For the past two years, we have received financial support from the Town of Orono for a part-time position during the Summer. It would be great if this could be expanded to full time coverage. These hours have been matched by volunteer hours. Fortunately, we have not encountered any invasives entering or leaving Pushaw.

Lastly, as a lake resident, I clearly have a vested financial interest in preserving and improving the health of Pushaw Lake. My property value is directly tied to water quality. As a Maine resident, my interest also extends to all Maine lakes. The value of our lakes has recently been estimated at \$14.4 billion annually. They are economic engines for the surrounding communities and statewide. Economics is but one measure of their importance. Recreation, sport, beauty, physical and spiritual renewal are priceless values sustained by our lakes. It is our duty and privilege to participate in sustaining robust waterbodies in Maine.

I strongly support LD 296.

Doug Kavanaugh

Maine Lakes