

MEMO: Wednesday, February 4, 2026

TO: Joint Chairs and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the Maine Legislature.

FROM: Matthew Scott, Citizen of Belgrade

Good afternoon, my name is Matt Scott, here in support of LD 2141. I have a long career associated with Maine lakes, starting in 1958 and continuing into 2026 as a volunteer. I have visited, fished, surveyed, sampled, and spent time on at least 2,200 of Maine's Lakes and ponds during my lifetime of employment and into retirement. LD 2141 or any source of funding that will protect, enhance, and or restore Maine lakes for the citizens of Maine and all future generations makes for a healthy environment.

In my lifetime of association with these waters, I have considered them to be the Crown Jewels of Maine, the Golden Eggs of our landscape. I have long considered the economic value of all water quality, especially Maine Lakes and Ponds. Recent economic research by several University of Maine scientists has documented the total annual economic value of Maine lakes and Ponds to be \$14 billion dollars. That's right, I said \$14 Billion. Maine's new economic engine. In my lifetime of work, I have seen change, and we will continue to see more with time. We must fund and dedicate continued work by the Maine DEP and all lake organizations to protect these natural jewels that we all cherish and love.

I stand before you as a supporter of LD 2141. I am at the old age of 91 and having fun. I thank you all for your work on this new policy, and I am willing to help during your work session.