

Testimony in Support of LD 2141 to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

By

Kezar Lake Watershed Association

President Steve Lewis

The Kezar Lake Watershed Association is a 900+ membership association located in western Maine in the towns of Lovell, Stoneham, and Stow. We have advocated on behalf of our watershed for the past 54 years. I, personally, have been a volunteer lake monitor with the Lake Stewards of Maine for the past 30 years and I live in Stoneham on Horseshoe Pond.



Maine's lakes and streams are, generally, in very good health and are one of the top 3 attractions to the State... and certainly highly treasured by residents. We need to keep them that way.

There are many issues about our waters which others will doubtless bring up. For example, the cost and time of educating the public and contractors on zoning regulations, and the lack of enforcement of current shoreland zoning ordinances. However, KLWA would like to emphasize that there is growing population and visitor stress on our waters and we need to be proactive in maintaining and protecting them. There are myriad examples of the great degradation of waters in other states from lack of foresight. One big issue is that these pressures show up as increased nutrient loading which causes a greater risk of harmful algal blooms—a problem that is far cheaper to prevent than to fix.

Maine needs to learn from these examples and act now,... not when it is too late.

Public needs like farm support, public defenders, and lakes and stream protection should be met using something like a third of the bottle deposit funds, if not more. None of the bottle deposit money should go to private profit. All of it should be used for the good of the State and its people.

LD 2141 provides a stable, hopefully increasing in the future, and dedicated funding source to help Maine communities address these pressures before they become irreversible. We strongly urge you to recommend that the Legislature pass LD 2141

Thank you for your attention to this issue.