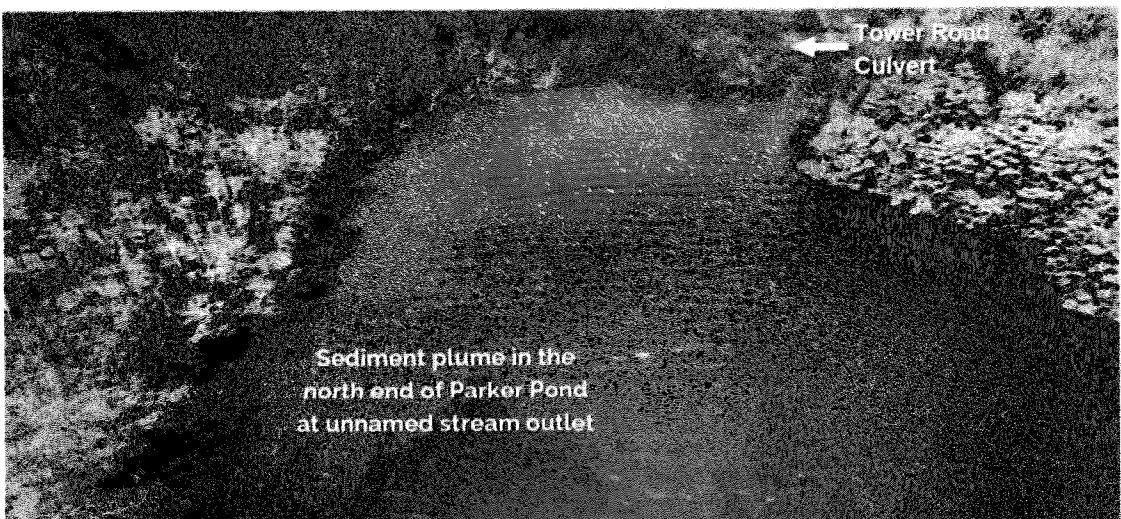


Testimony in Support of LD 2141
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Elizabeth G. Trehu, MD
576 Tower Rd.
Vienna, ME 04360

Feb 4, 2026

Good afternoon. My name is Dr. Beth Trehu and I am here to ask you to support LD2141. I live in Vienna, Maine, in close proximity to Parker Pond and Minnehonk Lake, and my family owns a camp on Flying Pond, where I am a member of the Flying Pond Improvement Association Board and the Lake Smart Team. I am also the representative from Vienna and Chairman of the board of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association. Last year, I submitted written testimony in support of LD 296, An Act to Appropriately \$4 million over 2 years to the Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund. Due to ever present funding constraints, only \$100,000 was appropriated over 2 years. This year I am here in person to ask you to support LD 2141 with a new common sense funding solution with no cost to Mainers. Money from unredeemed bottle deposits belongs to the people of Maine, not the bottling industry, and should be directed to protecting and preserving our environment, an essential element of our quality of life.

Waterfront property constitutes a major percentage of the tax base in my area, and the health of our lakes is essential to the quality of life and fiscal health of our towns. My town of Vienna, the smallest in Kennebec County with about 570 residents, depended on 30 Mile to obtain grants to develop engineering plans for road improvements to address road wash outs from the two winter storms of December 2023 and January 2024. The road washouts led to visible and disastrous run-off into Flying Pond and Parker Pond. An aerial photo of the north end of Parker Pond shows a huge plume of sediment extending at least 100 feet from the culvert opening, shown here.



Our road commissioner and his team have tried their best to repair the roads, but prevention of further road washouts into our ponds will require major work that will be more expensive than our small town can afford.

30 Mile is applying for additional grants to fund the work, which will cost over \$1 million. The data required in grant applications is obtained through watershed surveys and other projects, all of which cost thousands of dollars. Lake associations and towns contribute what they can, but these are small towns with limited resources, and despite their contributions and those of generous donors, 30 Mile's work to keep our lakes clean and healthy would be impossible without state and federal funding.

Money from unredeemed bottle deposits belongs to us and should be used where we need it. Without clean lakes, our communities will suffer in countless ways. Please support LD 2141 to help protect our watersheds and our way of life. Thank you.