

Testimony in Support of Funding the DEP Lake Water Quality Protection and Restoration Fund. LD2141

Good afternoon Senator Brennor, Representative Bridgeo, and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is John Crowley, and I am here on behalf of the Worromontogus Lake Association. I'm speaking in strong support of the bill that would provide **\$2 million annually to the Department of Environmental Protection's Lake Water Quality Protection and Restoration Fund.**

I want to share what this type of investment has made possible, and what it is continuing to make possible, because for us, this funding is not abstract. It is real, timely, and essential.

Togus Pond, like many Maine lakes, has faced long-term water quality challenges driven by excess phosphorus. These challenges threaten the ecological health of the pond, limit recreational use, and put at risk a resource that generations of families value deeply.

Thanks to a DEP grant made available through a **previous bill - LD164**, our lake association has been able to plan and move forward with a **second alum treatment scheduled for this April**. This critical step builds directly on earlier restoration work and would not be possible without state investment. The cost and technical complexity of projects like this are far beyond what small, volunteer-run lake associations can manage on their own.

The first treatment demonstrated that restoration works. We have seen improved water clarity and renewed confidence that Togus Pond can be protected for the long term. The upcoming treatment this spring is designed to protect that progress and extend those benefits well into the future.

This is why continued, reliable funding matters.

The DEP's Lake Water Quality Protection and Restoration Fund allows science-based solutions to move forward, ensures that past investments are not lost, and gives communities the tools they need to act before problems become more severe and more costly.

A \$2 million annual commitment is a smart, preventative investment in Maine's lakes. It protects water quality, supports local stewardship, and safeguards lakes that are central to our environment, economy, and quality of life.

On behalf of the Togus Pond community, and many other lake communities across Maine, I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to protecting Maine's waters.

John Crowley

96 Albee Road, Augusta, ME 04330

207-592-5435