

IN SUPPORT of: LD 2141 Direct a Portion of Unclaimed Beverage Container Deposits to the Lake Water Quality Restoration & Protection Fund (2 million annually)

The Toddy Pond Association highly encourages support of LD 2141, not only to help protect our lake, but also our local and statewide economy. Toddy Pond, a popular fishing lake, spans four towns and has one of the busiest public boat launches in our region due to its easy proximity on Route One. We have determined that our lake alone contributes about \$9 million in revenue to our local economy.

We are a high risk lake for invasive species but our water quality remains good as determined by the actual testing we do. I attribute this to the state support we have received for the last 25 years and the many volunteers who have implemented the numerous programs initiated by Maine DEP and other supported organizations such as Lake Stewards of Maine, Maine Lakes Society and our County Soil & Water Conservation District.

For 25 years, our volunteers, now totaling about 60 active people, have participated in Courtesy Boat Inspection, Invasive Species Monitoring, Water Quality Testing, and Watershed Survey. Moreover, while we receive only \$2,000 from the state to support our Boat Inspection program, we raise an additional \$18,000 annually for paid inspectors to provide the coverage needed.

I'd like to stress 3 major points to consider:

- 1) Whatever is spent on these preventive and restorative programs at the state level is substantially compounded in the work of thousands of volunteers all across Maine as well as additional fundraising done at the local level where paid help is needed.
- 2) Preventive measures are far more cost effective than mitigation which can cost millions for one impaired lake.
- 3) Besides the ecological value that lakes contribute to Maine as Vacationland, CLEAN lakes are a vital contribution to our statewide economy.

Therefore, I can hardly think of a better "bang for the buck" using available proceeds to continue supporting the excellent programs already in place to continue protecting Maine's beautiful lakes.

Toddy Pond Association Board and members,

Lucy Leaf

For the Toddy Pond Association Board of Directors:

- Marc Restuccia, President
- Phil Roberts, Vice President
- Robin Yurkevich, Secretary
- Brian Smith
- Charlie Bloch
- Maureen Giffin