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## **Testimony Presenting LD 743**

### **An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Invasive Aquatic Species**

**April 5, 2021**

Sen. Brenner, Rep. Tucker and esteemed members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, I am Jessica Fay representing the people of House District 66, parts of the towns of Casco, Poland and Raymond. I am pleased to introduce LD 743, “An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Invasive Aquatic Species”.

I am presenting this bill on behalf of the Department of Environmental Protection. They are in a much better position to describe the bill, its origin and its necessity. I understand they are asking for a carry-over to further engage stakeholders and I am certainly in support of that.

I did want to take a moment to remind you of the importance of mitigating and eradicating these aquatic invasive species, not only to our environment and ecosystems, but also to our economy. For example, invasive milfoil forms dense mats on the surface of the water making it unappealing for recreation, harming native plants and fish and causing decreases in property values. We need lots of tools in our tool box to address this threat.

With increased usage of our precious fresh water resources, there is increased opportunity for new infestations and for spread of existing infestations. I am glad the committee will be having a discussion about the issue – whenever that happens.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions.