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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

TESTIMONY OF
BRIAN KAVANAH, DIRECTOR
BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SPEAKING IN OPPOSITION OF L.D. 743

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS GOVERNING INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

SPONSORED BY REPRESENTATIVE FAY

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DATE OF HEARING:

APRIL 5, 2021

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Committee, I am Brian Kavanah, Director of the Bureau of Water Quality at the Department of Environmental Protection. I am speaking in opposition to L.D. 743.

The Department administers a multifaceted Invasive Aquatic Species Program that includes prevention, early detection and control.

This bill was introduced at the request of the Department to strengthen various aspects of the program by expanding the list of invasive plants (Section 1 of the bill), and by removing a requirement that specifies that chemical control agents (herbicides) may not

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be used on a water body that is a public water supply without the prior written consent of each public water supplier using that water body (Section 2 of the bill).

Over the last two months the Department and staff from the DHHS Drinking Water Program have had discussions with various public water suppliers and their representatives that have voiced opposition with Section 2 of the bill as it is drafted. We agreed in concept that there may be alternative language that would be acceptable to all parties, however, additional outreach and discussions would be needed with additional parties before revised language could be suggested. We realize that is not possible to do this within the timeframe of the current legislative session therefore we are respectfully requesting that the bill in its entirety be voted ought not to pass. The Department will then continue to work with the Drinking Water Program and public water suppliers to craft a bill for a future session that we hope will have broad support.

I would be happy to answer any questions you have, now, or at the work session.

Thank you.