

Lydia Landesberg
Waterford

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Lydia Landesberg and I am a Maine resident on beautiful Bear Pond in the town of Waterford. I urge you to oppose LD 1161 and this is why: Here in the Lakes Region of Western Maine, our local economy revolves around the lakes. I live on a street with eight homes, six of which are owned by out-of-state residents. Some of my neighbors come from May to October, and some come for short periods year-round, but all of them come because of the lake. Shoreland zoning protecting the health and natural qualities of our lakes is of utmost importance, not just for the local economy but also for our property values. Passage of LD 1162 would downgrade existing shoreland zoning because restaurants by nature use a large quantity of water and generate a large quantity of waste. They also require parking which means impervious paved surfaces which create runoff and erosion, the major sources of lake pollution. Our lakes are already threatened by climate change, development and increased usage by high speed watercraft. It is in no way necessary to be in the shoreland zone to operate a restaurant. Most of the successful restaurants in Maine are not on the waterfront, and many do not offer a view. Passage of LD 1161 would benefit a small number of people and cause harm to our lakes, while our lakes benefit everyone with their beauty, cost-free recreation and tourist economy which they sustain. Protecting them must be a high priority. Please vote against LD 1161.
Thank you for your consideration.