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Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
ENR@legislature.maine.gov

RE: LD 164 An Act To Fund Lake Restoration and Protection Fund

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and Members of the Committee:

I'm pleased to hear the Legislature is considering allocating additional funds for the restoration and protection of Maine lakes, and I enthusiastically encourage this committee to endorse the passage of LD 164.

I grew up paddling the lakes of Minnesota and Canada, but when my wife Sue convinced me to visit the waters she had paddled in Maine, I fell in love. We bought an old farmhouse in Sweden in Oxford County in 1969 and moved there permanently in 1980 after I retired from a career in the United States Marine Corps. Fortunately, we were also able to purchase some waterfront on Moose Pond in Sweden to keep our canoe and explore the wonders that clean water provides.

Like most people in Maine, I value the clean water of our lakes and appreciate the hard work that many organizations do trying to keep it that way. In our area, the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) leads the way in protecting our lakes. They partner with landowners, developers, and municipalities to reduce erosion and improve storm water control. And they employ dive teams to aggressively attack milfoil infestations. Like other similar organizations, LEA actively raises contributions for their projects, but they could engage in more projects if they could apply for additional funds from the State. LD 164 seems like an appropriate solution for this need.

Sue passed away a few years ago, and I am old and probably won't be around to appreciate all the benefits that will flow from the passage of LD 164. But my children and grandchildren will be. For their sake and that of all Mainers, I certainly would appreciate some of my tax dollars being used to fund the worthwhile endeavor of restoring and protecting the waters of Maine.

Sincerely,

/s/ Samuel E. Black