

Doug Kavanaugh
Maine Lakes
LD 164

I am a resident of Orono, Maine living year-round on Pushaw Lake. I strongly support LC 164: An Act to Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund.

As a Board member of Maine Lakes and Chair of the LakeSmart Committee I am actively involved in efforts to protect and improve our beautiful lakes. Volunteer LakeSmart evaluators meet with lakeside homeowners to thoroughly assess how well pollution from septic systems and ground water runoff is being controlled on that property. Where needed, Best Management Practices are recommended to improve and hopefully eliminate the flow of herbicides, pesticides, chemicals, and sewage into the lake. The key to success is establishing a robust shoreline buffer to divert and absorb runoff. Our role is advisory only. It remains up to the property owner to implement our suggestions. This, unfortunately, is where best intentions often fail. Implementation is limited by the cost of materials and/or labor. It is my hope that LD 164 will allow some assistance to homeowners to fund these projects. While each individual project is small, these corrective actions are the last stand before runoff enters the lake.