

John Norton
Brunswick
LD 164

John & Barbara Norton
12 Scarlet Sage Lane
Brunswick ME 04011

January 25, 2023

Dear Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,
We write to encourage you to invest in the healthy future of Maine's lakes and Maine's economy by supporting LD 164, An Act to Fund The Lake Restoration and Protection Fund. Our family has owned property and has summered on East Pond in Smithfield Maine for four generations. In the early 1990's algae blooms became the norm in July and would continue through the fall. Summer residents departed early, visitors declined and home values stagnated. In 2018/19 Maine DEP, private foundations and individuals came together and funded an Alum treatment to reduce the phosphorous levels in East Pond. The results were instantaneous and dramatic. The water cleared and has remained clear some 5 years later. The lake is more active, entertains more visitors, home values dramatically increased; a win for East Pond, Smithfield, The Belgrade Lakes Region and the State of Maine. This achievement would not have been possible without the support and cooperation as proposed in LD 164. Maine's economy is inextricably linked to the health of its fresh and salt water resources. Your support of LD 164 will prove highly beneficial for local economies and the entire state.

Sincerely,
John Norton Barbara Norton