



CHINA REGION LAKES ALLIANCE
PO Box 6339, China Village, Maine 04926

January 30, 2023

Dear members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, please accept this written testimony supporting LD 164, An Act to Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund..

My name is Scott Pierz, a resident of China, Maine, where I have lived on China Lake for 41 years.

For nearly half that time I served as the China Code Enforcement Officer, and after that I was president of the China Lake Association and also president of the China Region Lakes Alliance (CRLA), a consortium of lake associations in the China Lake region representing China Lake, Three Mile Pond, and Webber Pond. Currently I serve as the executive director of the CRLA.

Over my time spent living on China Lake I can attest that I have seen the results of climate change and the adverse impact those changes have made on our local lake resources. It may be that we are approaching or have already reached a critical time where it is imperative to respond to the condition of these water resources, to not only maintain them but to restore and improve their water quality.

Specifically, the severe and intense storm events we have been experiencing end up transporting stormwater into our lakes which increases nutrient loads and non-point source pollutants from within their respective watersheds. The consequences are waterbodies under duress, subject to algal blooms which tint the water green and are a nuisance to the beholder. The overall result is poor water quality and potential health risks.

The CRLA operates a summer Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) employing high school students engaged in environmental best management practices. These conservation projects help mitigate these severe stormwater events and lessen the impact on our lakes' water quality. The Towns of China and Vassalboro help fund the YCC, but tax-payer dollars are limited. Without sufficient funding for lake protection efforts, in the future it will take even more to restore our lake resources from the changing climate's impact.

In closing, there are two things for certain about lake water quality. . The first is that the condition of a lake's water quality is connected to local property values (resulting in municipal taxes), and water quality also influences market values and sales. The second fact is that local businesses thrive when lake water quality is good, while visitors and vacationers from within and from outside Maine enjoy a variety of summer recreational opportunities.

I strongly urge the Committee to favorably support LD 164, An Act to Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund. With this funding, work can be done to restore and safeguard our lake resources. Please support LD 164.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Pierz

Scott Pierz, Executive Director
China Region Lakes Alliance