

Paul Shook
Norway, ME
LD 164

Dear members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Paul Shook and I live on Little Pennessewassee Pond in Norway from May to October. I am asking for your support today for LD 164: An Act to Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund.

I am also a board member on the Lake Association of Norway, and personally conduct water quality measurements each month on four lakes in Norway, Maine as a volunteer trying to protect our fragile lakes and ponds. We have seen some disturbing trends in recent years in some of Maine's treasured lakes. My pond, also known as "Hobbs Pond" has unfortunately seen cyanobacteria blooms in 2021 and 2022 for the first time in history. This is devastating for what has always been a very pristine pond. We are desperately trying to reverse the effects of pollution and development which is no doubt affecting the health of this lake.

The effects of warming waters, longer growing seasons, larger rain events, and increased development pressure are putting our lakes at greater risk with every passing day. Funding for lake protection projects, including implementation of Best Management Practices, replacement of failing septic systems, stronger invasive species management programs, and treatment of lakes with chronic algae blooms are desperately needed to safeguard lake health in the coming decades.

Please invest in the healthy future of Maine's lakes today to protect local economies, outdoor tourism, sporting, and recreation businesses, drinking water supplies, wildlife habitat and so much more for all who use lakes in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Shook