

Adam Zemans  
Auburn  
LD 164

Lake Stewards of Maine

Executive Director, Adam R. Zemans

TESTIMONY RE: LD 164. An Act to Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund

January 27, 2023

Honorable Committee Members:

Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) works to protect the lakes of Maine and to promote lake stewardship through widespread citizen participation in the gathering and dissemination of credible scientific information pertaining to lake health. LSM trains, mentors and equips thousands of volunteers throughout the state to monitor lakes and prevent and control invasive aquatic species on approximately 500 lakes.

Firstly, Lake Stewards would like to thank the sponsors of LD 164. An Act to Fund the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund, particularly Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta; JACKSON of Aroostook and Representatives DOUDERA of Camden, HASENFUS of Readfield, LaROCHELLE of Augusta, NUTTING of Oakland. We would also like to profoundly thank our colleagues at Maine Lakes for their leading advocacy efforts around LD 164.

LSM is a nonpartisan organization that normally does not get involved in legislation except to provide scientific analysis and neutral viewpoints. However, when it comes to funding bills, there are clear reasons to do so that go to the core of our mission. LSM supports LD 164 for all the reasons mentioned in Maine Lakes's presentation of the facts, particularly the concept of "investment."

Now, more than ever, lake protection and stewardship require the implementation of the precautionary principle. Namely, when in doubt, protect our environmental resources and population. Preventative measures on lakes and in watersheds not only mean that an ounce of prevention leads to a pound of cure. In the case of Maine lakes, many ounces of prevention among our 6,000 plus lakes and ponds are needed to stop the requirement for billions of pounds of cure.

History will be on the side of those in the state of Maine who step up and beyond their comfort zones to lead and cooperate in preventative lake stewardship measures before it is too late to help stop the worst of increasing environmental impacts in a context of unprecedented environmental threats to the state, especially its precious and, in some cases, most vulnerable lakes and lake populations.

Thank you so much for your wise leadership on this issue that is so crucial to Maine's future.

Best wishes in your noble work.

Adam R. Zemans  
Executive Director, Lake Stewards of Maine