



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Chad R. Perkins

POB 251
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
Residence: (207) 279-0927
Fax: (207) 305-4907
Chad.Perkins@legislature.maine.gov

23 Apr 23

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: LD 1049, An Act to Protect Maine's Inland Fisheries from Invasive Fish

Committee Chair Senator LaFountain, Committee Chair Representative Landry and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony for LD 1049, An Act to Protect Maine's Inland Fisheries from Invasive Fish.

Piscataquis County is known for its sportsmen's activities, and one of the most important among them is the fishing. The economic draw is vital to our communities, and as LD 1049 specifically addresses Sebec Lake and Schoodic Lake and the dams in Milo, Lakeview Plantation and Dover Foxcroft, all of which are in my constituent district, this bill is extremely important to the protection of the ecological and economic resources of Piscataquis County.

In order to protect this important part of our economy and to protect the delicate ecological balances established within our inland waterways, reasonable measures must be taken to arrest the spread of invasive species. The most important example of this is the Northern Pike, but could also include Catfish and other species. If this bill is not passed, the danger to the native cold water game fish in my region is not only possible, but almost guaranteed over time. This would be especially disastrous for Sebec Lake, which is one of the four original land locked Salmon lakes in the state, but would also destroy the Trout in the upper Piscataquis rivershed. Additionally, any expansion of of invasive species up the Piscataquis River and into surrounding lakes bring them dangerously close to Moosehead Lake.

House District 31

Atkinson Township, Brownville, Dover-Foxcroft, Lake View Plantation, Medford, Milo, Orneville Township, & Southeast Piscataquis

I thank the committee for their time in considering this testimony and encourage the committee to support it with a vote of 'Ought To Pass'. Please feel free to contact me if I can answer any questions, if you would like me to be available for any future work session or if I can be of any further service.

Respectfully,



Rep. Chad R. Perkins
District 31

ATT:

CF:

Committee Chair Senator LaFountain
Committee Chair Representative Landry
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee Members

House District 31

*Atkinson Township, Brownville, Dover-Foxcroft, Lake View Plantation, Medford, Milo, Orneville
Township, & Southeast Piscataquis*