

Eric Lahti
Madison
LD 2141

Dear Chair LaFountain, Chair Landry, and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee:

As Vice-President of the Lake Wesserunsett Association, I would ask that you support LD 2141. Lake Wesserunsett is in close proximity to infestations of invasive species in the Kennebec River the Belgrade Lakes. We are also potentially exposed to boaters coming from other infested lakes both in Maine and from out of state by pleasure boaters and fishermen who boat and fish on multiple lakes. We have an active CBI program but are unable to cover the launch on a full time basis.

Last fall we were visited by a group of four boats that were launched before daybreak. Our inspector was not yet on duty. When I checked the trailers in the parking lot, I observed aquatic plants on each one. We were able to check all the boats when they returned in the afternoon and discovered more plants in the boat live wells. All were collected and submitted for identification. One turned out to be fanwort, an invasive not previously known in Maine. Since the boats were on the water for the entire day, we do not know whether an infestation has occurred. The boaters were referred for enforcement and that is in process. The lake will now be monitored for fanwort. The point is that we are unable to provide full coverage at the landing and need help to expand inspections to protect the lake.