

Diane Shepherd
Sokokis Lake Association
LD 2141

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

I am expressing my support for LD 2141, a bill that will fund critical work to reduce the spread of invasive species.

This work benefits all who swim, work, live or play on Maine's lakes, as well as the fish and wildlife who make lakes their home. I care deeply about this issue because I know how devastating invasive infestations can be to a lake, its wildlife, and its surrounding community, with far-reaching impacts to habitat, economic values, and tourism.

The needs for managing current infestations of invasive species, as well as reducing the risk of spread, far exceed the current funding available. I know this from working with local Courtesy Boat Inspectors, participating in invasive plant surveys and attending local workshops where dedicated volunteers share knowledge and information on this very threatening topic.

I urge you to support LD 2141 in order to protect the future health of Maine's lakes.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Diane Shepherd
Limerick, ME
Sokokis Lake