

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

Maine lakes are a gem to be cherished. Not only do they provide recreation for families to enjoy, beauty, wildlife habitat and sporting opportunities, they are an economic engine that drives the State's economy through tourism and local government through tax dollars. For these reasons, we must do whatever we can to protect them.

As the CBI coordinator for the past 20 years on Torsey Lake in Readfield, I've seen first hand the threat that invasive aquatic species present. I've witnessed and been dismayed by infestations occurring in Messalonskee Lake, Great Pond, Salmon Lake, Pleasant Pond, Cobbossee, Annabessacook and Androscoggin Lake; all within close proximity to Torsey. I understand the threat is real and action must be taken to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species to other lakes and ponds.

I've seen and been involved in the struggle against invasives that volunteers of lake associations, watershed friends and others take on to preserve these gems. Without additional help, more water bodies will become infested, volunteers in these "hot spot" areas will be overwhelmed and we will start to lose the battle. There must be a better way. I believe LD 2141 will provide the means to help protect our lakes and ponds and keep the economic engine running. A united front against these invaders is needed to win the battle. Doing nothing is not an option.

I strongly support LD 2141 and I hope you will too.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andrew Zuorski  
Mount Vernon