

William MacDonald
30 Mile River Watershed Association
LD 171

Testimony in SUPPORT LD 171, An Act to Enhance Protections Regarding
Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations in Inland Waters of the State
Submitted to Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee
February 12, 2025

Good afternoon, Chair Baldacci, Chair Roberts, and Distinguished Members of
the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee

My name is William H. MacDonald, and I live in Farmington, Maine, I am a board
member of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association, past President and founder of
the Kimball Pond Association where I have a summer camp that I helped my father
and mother build in 1959. My wife and I now own that camp and enjoy having it to
enjoy with all our family members including our great grandchildren. Kimball Pond
has always been and continues to be very clean, clear and refreshing pond to enjoy.
We are concerned with the threat of invasive plants that could change it forever if not
caught in time by watercraft inspections and educating the public and boat owners of
the need to understand the need to keep invasive plants from being transported into
other bodies of water in our state.

We all are concerned with the quality of the water in all of Maine lakes and ponds
which is why we are writing in support of LD171. This bill helps reduce the risk of
aquatic invasive species spread by focusing on key management
actions on infested lakes. You are all I am sure aware that invasive aquatic plants pose
a serious
risk to Maine's inland waters. They outcompete native plants, with potentially
devastating effects
on aquatic ecosystems, water quality, native wildlife and fisheries, recreational
opportunities, and
property values.

Maine has so far not seen the more devastating invasive species outbreaks plaguing
our
neighboring states to the west and south. That is because of much hard work over the
last two
decades by Maine's lake organizations, lake associations, and many thousands of
volunteers, as
well as by the Departments of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Environmental
Protection staff, and
by legislators like you who have repeatedly supported this work, both with funds and
with forward-
thinking, proactive lake policies. This work has benefited Maine residents and
visitors, municipal
budgets and local economies, property owners, summer camps, anglers, swimmers,
boaters and
most importantly lakes, their wildlife, and their ecological functions.

We see only positive outcomes in terms of invasive species risk reduction by the
common-sense
measures enacted in this bill. We urge the committee to vote yes on this bill.