

Robert Merrill  
McGraw Pond Salmon Lake Association  
LD 171

Honorary committee members,

I welcome the opportunity today to write in support of LD 171, designed to reduce the risk of the spread of invasive aquatic plants. I am a property owner on Salmon Lake in Oakland, and the coordinator of our lake's volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspectors. I have spent several hours most weeks over the past few summers checking boats as they enter/exit our McGraw Pond/Salmon Lake boat launch. Boat owners are always cooperative and most are eager to learn more about the dangers of invasive plants. It has been rewarding to know Mainers and visitors value our lakes. With over 35 Maine lakes identified as having invasive plant infestations, it seems critical that stronger, aligned protocols, especially on those particular lakes, would protect all of Maine's bodies of water, now and into the future. I will continue to do my part as a volunteer and property owner. I encourage you to do your part and vote yes on LD 171.