

Cynthia Ripley  
30 Mile River Watershed  
LD 171

Dear Chair Baldacci, Chair Roberts, and Distinguished Members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee.

I am writing to you today to ask that you support LD 171. Preventing invasive plants benefits all of us who swim, work, live or play on Maine's lakes, as well as the fish and wildlife who make lakes their home.

I volunteer for the Invasive Plant Patrol on Flying Pond where our family has summered for generations. I have, unfortunately, seen first hand the impact of invasive plants on nearby Androscoggin Lake as well as several others in our immediate area. Without more support, it is inevitable that invasive plants will spread to more ponds and lakes. Many people are working hard to help prevent invasive plant infestations, but it's simply not enough. Each year there are increasing numbers of people, and boats. Many boaters also enjoy several lakes and ponds, increasing the likelihood of cross contamination and infestation.

Adding more stringent protocols for inspecting boats as they leave waters known to be infested is a simple way of preventing contamination of other waters. This "ounce of prevention" will go a long way to aid management of current infestations as well as reduce the risk of spreading plants in the long run. This bill will also help prevent the spread of invasive plants within a body of water that is already infested. Surface use restrictions, when enforced, will help isolate plants that are identified and help prevent further infestation.

I urge you to support LD 171 in order to protect the future health of Maine's lakes for future generations. Thank you for your time and your consideration.