

Gary Christopher Brink

P.O. Box 455

Center Lovell, ME 04016

407 493 6865

Brink.chris@gmail.com

TO: State legislators:

RE: Support for LD 2101

February 5, 2024

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Maine's shoreland zoning rules are critical to protecting water quality and wildlife habitat on our lakes. It is also critical to maintaining a town's tax base because a quality shoreline protects the integrity of the tax base. But when laws are ignored, enforcement of shoreland zoning by the town can be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

Some homeowners and developers violate shoreland zoning rules by cutting trees along the water's edge, removing vegetation that stabilizes shoreline and helps keep water clean, or adding jetties, stairs, rocks, boat launches, sand, and other features without the required permits. Fines may be assessed but the damage does not get repaired and is left forever. Towns are powerless to enforce the laws unless they spend significant tax dollars, which they don't have, to fight the violators in court.

LD 2101 is critical to providing the local towns the ability to properly enforce the laws and to preserve our valuable resource so important to the water, the wildlife and financial well being of our towns.

Sincerely,

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Lovell
LD 2101

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