

Christine Guerette  
Sabattus  
LD 2101

Dear Members of the State and Local Government Committee,

As someone who cares deeply about protecting Maine's inland waters, environment, and the rule of law, I urge you to support LD2101, An Act to Strengthen Shoreland Zoning Enforcement.

Maine's strong shoreland zoning rules protect water quality and wildlife habitat on our lakes so that they will be sources of beauty and recreation for generations to come. When those rules are flagrantly ignored and no or paltry consequences come to the offenders, enforcement of shoreland zoning becomes difficult or impossible.

Some homeowners and developers violate shoreland zoning rules by cutting trees in the zone, removing vegetation that stabilizes the shoreline and helps to keep the water clean, or adding features without the required permits or appropriate best management practices. When the only consequence is a fine, then breaking the law is only illegal to those who can't afford to pay. For the well-to-do, the fine and legal fees merely becomes the "cost of doing business", and the permanent damage done through their actions becomes the problem of the tax payer.

LD 2101 will help to address this extensive problem.

This simple and common sense bill gives municipalities and the Land Use Planning Commission the ability to suspend or revoke shoreland zoning violators' permits and place liens on properties that are in violation. Municipalities desperately need this tool to keep themselves solvent when fighting protracted battles against the worst and most egregious shoreland zone violators.

I urge you to vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD 2101. Thank you for your consideration and for your service.

Sincerely,

Christine Guerette, Sabattus