

Stephen Lajoie  
Standish  
LD 2101

Dear Members of the State and Local Government Committee,

I am writing you to urge you to support LD 2101, An Act to Strengthen Shoreland Zoning Enforcement.

Maine has done a good job (much better than surrounding NE states) of enacting strong shoreland zoning rules to protect water quality and wildlife habitat on our lakes. But more legislation is apparently required to ensure that when those rules are ignored; 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, local enforcement officials have the tools to force compliance.

The vast majority of landowners comply with the existing rules but when someone chooses to ignore the regulations to benefit themselves over the greater good, fines (which may be assessed and paid as the "cost of doing business,") are not enough. The damage caused by these irresponsible and uncaring individuals must be punished in a way that gets their attention because the damage they cause leaves a permanent legacy of erosion and lake pollution that affects all who use the lake.

Please vote to give enforcement agencies the tools they need to fight this wanton disregard for the natural resources we all treasure.

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