

Testimony to the State and Local Government Committee
In support of LD 2101 by the Kezar Lake Watershed Association

To the Committee:

The Kezar Lake Watershed Association **strongly supports bill LD 2101** that strengthens the Shoreland Zoning enforcement capabilities of local Towns and governments.

In most instances of lake and stream degradation these days is due to non-point source pollution; i.e., increased silt and nutrient runoff from shorelands due to disturbances in the natural buffers there. The Shoreland Zoning ordinances of Maine address this issue well... but they are often flouted with impunity.

There are many examples cited by people that I have talked with of Towns backing down from enforcement of the Shoreland Zoning laws and having lakeshore owners do what they want regardless of the regulations. I have been directly aware of such a case while on a Town Planning Board. Not following through due to concerns about how much it would cost the Town to force a recalcitrant scofflaw to follow the regulations.

We must provide Towns with the solid backing of economic muscle to get people to follow the excellent Shoreland zoning regulations and not be deterred by people who dare the Towns to try and make them do what they should, and by regulation, are required to do.

Please vote **Ought to Pass** for LD 2101.

Respectfully yours,

Stephen Lewis

President of the Kezar Lake Watershed Association

A 380 + membership organization dedicated to protecting the Kezar Lake Watershed in the Towns of Lovell, Stoneham, and Stow in Oxford County