

Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 2101

Dear Members of the State and Local Government Committee,

As someone who cares deeply about protecting Maine's clean water and lake wildlife habitat, I urge you to support LD 2101, An Act to Strengthen Shoreland Zoning Enforcement.

Maine's strong shoreland zoning rules are critical to protecting water quality and wildlife habitat on our lakes. But when rules are ignored, enforcement of shoreland zoning can be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

Not only this but having essentially two different sets of rules—rules that the law-abiding people follow and rules that tacitly say municipalities can ignore violations for those who choose not to follow the law—creates discord among and between property owners and between property owners and the municipality. People who are concerned about shoreland zoning violation and so report the violations get branded as snitches. Those who think they should not have to follow the rules tend to negatively regard lake associations and other groups who are trying to protect the lake. These naysayers can undermine the credibility of lake groups. None of this is helpful in protecting the lake.

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 and paid as the "cost of doing business," but the damage leaves a permanent legacy of erosion and lake pollution that affects all who use the lake.

LD 2101 will help address this egregious problem.

This simple, 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 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,

Elizabeth Payne, Orono



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Orono
LD 2101

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