

Jill Rundle
Lovell
LD 2101

Dear Members of the State and Local Government Committee,

Protecting Maine's clean water and lake wildlife habitat with your support of LD 2101, An Act to Strengthen Shoreland Zoning Enforcement, is critical to fulfill this priority for our future.

Shoreland zoning rules are the best defense for the water quality and wildlife habitat on our lakes. An enforcement tool to use when rules are ignored discourages and prevents both willful and unintentional violations.

Property owners and developers are known to violate shoreland zoning rules by cutting trees along the water's edge, removing vegetation that stabilizes shoreline and helps keep water clean, or building shoreline features without the required permits. Fines, when they are assessed, are modest and are often included in project budgets as "cost of doing business." The damage leaves a permanent legacy of erosion and lake pollution that affects all who use the lake now and in the future.

LD 2101 will provide enforcement tools to address this critical problem.

The bill gives municipalities and the Land Use Planning Commission the ability to suspend or revoke the permits of shoreland zoning violators, and to place liens on properties that are in violation. Municipalities desperately need this tool to control shoreland zone violators.

I urge you to vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD 2101.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our state.

Sincerely,

Jill Rundle, Lovell, Maine