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**Peter Lowell, Peter Kallin**  
**2014 Conservation Leadership Award**

*For their tireless efforts to protect the water quality of Maine's lakes*

Maine's spectacular lakes are among our most precious natural resources, providing essential habitat for wildlife, from insects and fish to birds and mammals, and for us humans. We love our lakes, from Moosehead to Sebago to West Grand to Rangeley, along with the other 6,000 or so, for the recreation opportunities, solitude, and cherished moments they provide. Maine's lakes are also valuable to Maine's economy, generating at least \$3.5 billion in economic activity annually and helping to sustain more than 50,000 jobs. But protecting our lakes is not an easy task, and has been particularly challenging over the past few years.

Actions, and inactions, by the current administration have put our lakes at increased risk. Cutting the state's lake protection staff and resources, terminating education and technical assistance, purging the Department of Environmental Protection's website of valuable public documents, disrupting the work of DEP technical experts, and failing to enforce a Maine law that helps protect lake water quality—these kinds of actions put our clean, clear waters at risk.

Thankfully, people across Maine have been prepared to stand up for our lakes, to do the tough work required to help monitor lake water quality, reduce sources of lake pollution, tackle new threats such as invasive species, enforce lake protection laws, and educate the public about their roles in protecting our lakes. Maine has many lake champions, and we are pleased to be recognizing two of them tonight.

Peter Lowell is a rock star in the world of lake protection. He's been the Executive Director at the Lakes Environmental Association in Bridgton since 1972. In that role he has helped build one of the most impressive and high-performing lake associations in the entire Northeast. Peter has been the leading advocate in Maine calling for action and resources to address the threat of milfoil, but he is an expert across the full range of issues that affect Maine's lakes. For NRCM's advocacy staff, Peter Lowell is one of first people we turn to for ideas, insight, information, and testimony on lake issues, and when Peter Lowell speaks, lawmakers listen.

Peter Kallin also tops NRCM's list of passionate, knowledgeable, and reliable lake advocates. Peter spent five years as the Executive Director of the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance and now serves on that organization's board of directors. He also serves on the board of the Maine Lakes Society and is a volunteer invasive plant and water quality monitor for Maine's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. Peter has devoted countless hours serving on various DEP stakeholder groups, and NRCM can count on him to show up at the State House to speak at news conferences or public hearings in support of strong lake protection policies. And although Peter

will readily admit that he doesn't love coming to Augusta, he does it nonetheless because he knows the importance of being part of the system.

Both Peter Lowell and Peter Kallin have developed strong relationships and influence with their representatives and senators, and that's what we depend on to protect our lakes, and to protect Maine's environment through citizen action. For these reasons, I am pleased to present a 2014 Conservation Leadership Award to Peter Kallin and Peter Lowell.