Support: LD 1510
An Act to Authorize a Bond to Fund Wastewater Infrastructure Projects ($50 million)

Sponsored by: Rep. Ken Fredette

For more information, please contact Pete Didisheim, (207) 430-0113 or pdidisheim@nrcm.org

Support: LD 178
An Act to Authorize a Bond to Provide Jobs, Improve Road Infrastructure and Protect Water Resources ($5 million)

Sponsored by: Rep. Russell Black

The Legislature should pass two bills (LD 1510 and LD 178) that would give Maine voters an opportunity to invest $55 million in construction projects that will create jobs and reduce water pollution in Maine's rivers, lakes, streams, and coastal waters.

Protecting clean water in Maine is vital for our economy and quality of life. LD 1510 is important because:

- Maine has made significant progress over the past 20 years in treating and cleaning up wastewater before it flows into our rivers and coastal waters, but we still have a long way to go.

- In 2016, more than 470 million gallons of untreated stormwater and sewage was discharged by 25 communities into state waterways due to combined sewer overflows that need to be replaced with modern systems.

- Maine has a $1 billion backlog in wastewater facility upgrades in 120 Maine towns.

- It will improve water quality in Maine waters, leveraging $71 million in additional funds and supporting 2,186 jobs. The bond also will address failing septic systems and overboard discharges.

- Wastewater improvement bonds consistently receive strong support from the Legislature and Maine voters, but the last such bond was sent to the voters in 2010.

- Mainers deserve the opportunity to vote in support of a $50 million investment in clean water and jobs.
Maine lakes face serious risks from nutrient runoff pollution. LD 178 is important because:

- Maine lakes generate at least $3.5 billion in economic activity annually and help sustain 52,000 jobs.

- Lakefront property values are closely related to water quality, and those property values strongly affect town budgets and services statewide.

- Studies show that the water quality in Maine’s lakes is deteriorating, with water clarity declining since 1995. Many of Maine’s lakes are close to a “tipping point” that could result in rapid loss of water quality.

- Camp roads and other sources of nutrient pollution need attention to help prevent hundreds of Maine lakes from suffering water quality impairment and algae blooms in years to come.

- Maine voters deserve the opportunity to support a $5 million bond for projects that reduce nonpoint source pollution, a major threat to lakes, rivers, and streams.

Investments in water infrastructure will leverage other funding and create jobs.

For more information contact Pete Didisheim, Senior Director of Advocacy (207) 430-0113, pete@nrcm.org, or visit https://www.nrcm.org/projects/waters/