



Provide Essential Funding to Protect Maine's Lakes

LD 2141: An Act to Direct a Portion of Unclaimed Beverage Container Deposits to the Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund and the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program.

→ \$2 million for lake protection and \$2 million for farm protection

This bill will **protect lakes and farms** while maintaining a robust recycling program – a model that already works well in other states.

- **Unredeemed bottle deposits are public funds** that belong to the people of Maine – these funds are not the property of the bottlers.
- There is a **precedent in other states**. VT, MA, MI, and NY all use unredeemed deposit funds to support *both* environmental programs and recycling costs.
- Even after investing some funds to protect lakes and farms, a substantial portion will remain to **offset the costs** of the redemption program.
- This bill is **wildly popular**, with 100+ citizen testimonies and 1400+ signatures. The only opposing testimony is from the beverage industry.

Maine's lakes are turning green, and there is no annual funding to protect them.

We need to invest now before it's too late.

