



Protect Clean Water and Create Jobs through Water Quality Infrastructure Investments

Investments that reduce pollution in Maine's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters protect our health, wildlife, and precious water resources for future generations

Maine's clean water is vital for our economy and quality of life, yet our waters face pollution risks

- More than 600,000 Mainers depend on clean lakes for drinking water.
- Maine's lakes generate at least \$3.5 billion in economic activity annually and help sustain 52,000 jobs.
- Maine's lobster industry has an estimated \$1.7 billion annual economic impact; Maine's aquaculture sector has a \$73 million impact; and 12 million people visit Maine beaches each year, contributing more than \$1.6 billion annually to Maine's economy.
- Poor water quality lowers lakefront property values which shrinks municipal property tax revenues and services.
- Studies show water quality in Maine's lakes is deteriorating. Some lakes are already impaired and some are approaching a tipping point where algal blooms will occur. Prevention is far less costly than repair.
- More than 470 million gallons of untreated storm water and sewage was discharged into state waterways in 2016, due to combined sewer overflow systems that need to be modernized.
- Water quality is degraded by overboard discharges, malfunctioning septic systems, and by storm water runoff from roads, all of which deposit pollutants into Maine lakes, streams and coastal waters.



Investments are needed now to address Maine's failing wastewater and road infrastructure

- Although significant progress has been made over the past 20 years in reducing the discharge of raw sewage into Maine waters, we still have a \$1 billion backlog in infrastructure projects, spanning 120 towns.
- Wastewater improvement bonds consistently receive strong support from the Legislature and Maine voters, but the last such bond was sent to the voters in 2009.



- Many communities, especially rural towns and water districts, do not have the financial capacity to stop deterioration of sewers, pump stations, and treatment facilities or to maintain town roads so as to prevent storm water runoff from carrying pollutants to water bodies.
- Improving camp roads and other sources of pollution will prevent algae blooms and the degradation of Maine lakes, streams and coastal waters.

Investments in water infrastructure will leverage other funding, protect and restore Maine waters, and create jobs

Support LD 1510: DEP's \$50 million clean water bond will leverage \$71 million in other funding and create or sustain 2,186 jobs.

Support LD 178: Representative Black's \$5 million bond will leverage nearly \$10 million in federal funds to protect and restore Maine lakes, streams and coastal waters, and provide jobs for Maine contractors.

For more information, contact Pete Didisheim, 207-430-0113 pdidisheim@nrcm.org, Ivy Frignoca, 207-831-3067 ifrignoca@cascoabay.org or Maggie Shannon, 207-242-6368 msshannon@mainelakessociety.org



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 34 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive

Acadia Center	Maine People's Alliance
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Public Health Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine Rivers
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Conservation Law Foundation	MidCoast Conservancy
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Environment Maine	Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Islesboro Island Trust	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
Maine Audubon	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Conservation Alliance	The Wilderness Society
Maine Council of Churches	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	Upstream
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	350 Maine
Maine Lakes Society	
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association	