

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

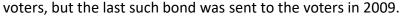
- More than 600,000 Mainers depend on clean lakes for drinking water.
- Maine's lakes generate at least \$3.5 billion in economic activity annually and help sustain 52,000 jobs.
- Maine's lobster industry has an estimated \$1.7 billion annual economic impact; Maine's aquaculture sector has a \$73 million 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.

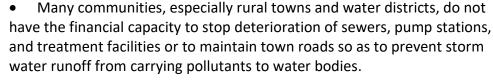


- Studies show water quality in Maine's lakes is deteriorating. Some lakes are already impaired and some are approaching a tipping point where algal blooms will occur. Prevention is far less costly than repair.
- More than 470 million gallons of untreated storm water and sewage was discharged into state 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.

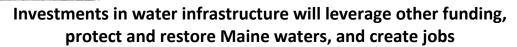
Investments are needed now to address Maine's failing wastewater and road infrastructure

- 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





• Improving camp roads and other sources of pollution will prevent algae blooms and the degradation of Maine lakes, streams and coastal waters.



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.



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

Conservation Law Foundation

Maine Wilderness Guides

Organization

Environmental Health Strategy Center MidCoast Conservancy

Environment Maine Natural Resources Council of Maine

Friends of Casco Bay
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Islesboro Island Trust Maine Chapter

Maine Association of RESTORE: The North Woods

Conservation Commissions Sierra Club, Maine Chapter

Maine Audubon
Southern Maine Conservation

Maine Center for Economic Policy Collaborative

Maine Conservation Alliance The Ocean Conservancy

Maine Council of Churches The Trust for Public Land

Maine Council of Trout Unlimited The Wilderness Society

Maine Interfaith Power & Light Toxics Action Center

Maine Lakes Society Upstream

Maine Organic Farmers and 350 Maine

Gardeners Association