

A Letter of Thanks

This is a note to thank you for your support for the Maine Milfoil Initiative now renamed as the Maine Lakes Invasive Species and Habitat Restoration Initiative. We were recently informed by our pro-bono lobbyist, Bob Mills, and by Senator Collins office that we had been successful in our 2.5 year quest to obtain federal money for milfoil mitigation. Our original request for a \$1,250,000 grant was reduced to \$500,000. The money will be used to assist Little Sebago and 6 other test bed lakes to create and develop and a milfoil action plan for mitigation and eradication that can be applied to other infested lakes around the state. Of the \$500,000, \$310,000 will be available for grants to lakes that have been selected by a steering committee utilizing the criteria set up within the original proposal. Little Sebago Lake could obtain up to \$40,000 through this process. Applications are now being accepted and all lakes with infestations have been notified. Grant money that is awarded will require an equal match in both contributions and in kind services.

As a member of the steering committee comprised of representatives from Saint Joseph's College, the Maine Congress of Lakes, The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and the Lake Environmental Association, I am thrilled to be part of this "first ever" initiative to help Maine lakes and to develop a blueprint to assist lakes which become infested in the future.

Thanks again for your support in writing letters to our Washington constituents. In challenging times such as these it shows that all of us have a voice to be heard and when joined with many others we can make a difference. We are also hopeful that we can count on your support for our fund raising efforts in the coming year. Many thanks from beautiful Little Sebago for the difference your support has made in it's future.

Sincerely,

Carol Ann Doucette, Milfoil Initiative Steering Committee

Little Sebago Lake Association

Cell- 838-4888