

Darryl R. Coffin Sr

14 Kinney Rd

Greenville Me 04441

207-841-6411

Senator Dill, Representative Nadeau, Members of the IF&W Committee.

My name is Darryl Coffin and I am here today not only to try to prevent LD56 from becoming a law, but also try to understand why this ban is even necessary. My family and I have lived on Lower Wilson Pond for more than 30 years. We are 120 feet from the water. Our camps are near the public boat launch and across from a multi unit camp rental business. We experience most all of the water skiing boats, the pleasure boats, the fishing boats, Personal Water Crafts, canoes, kayaks, stand up paddle boards and float planes go by our camp. Not once in 30 years have I wanted to complain or call the wardens because of an individuals behavior or excessive noise. I have seen a lot of changes on Wilson Pond over the years, some good, and some not so good. When the public boat launch near us was getting built we didn't put up a fuss or complain about what the possible problems or noise issues that could happen. We just went with it and embraced it. My family has had a lot of fun on this beautiful pond for decades on all types of recreational vessels. We, as property owners, tax payers and members of the community feel that there are laws in place to protect us all if an individual breaks the law on a PWC or any boat for that matter. We feel this ban is not needed. I personally do not own or operate a PWC on Wilson Pond but I do not like the fact that just be-

cause a few haters of PWC want to impose a ban on something that is not an issue. So I know the proposed ban is for Personal Water Craft but does that include all jet propelled water craft, like jet boats? These can hold up to 8 people. Are they considered "Personal". Are these part of this same ban? PWCs of today are all quiet clean running 4 stroke engines. They simply do not pollute the water or the air any more than any 4 stroke outboard. PWC owners are not allowed to modify the exhaust to create more noise. There are existing laws in place for that. Your lawn mower and weed trimmer produce more noise decibels than a PWC. Some say the hull slapping against the water is annoying. It's no worse than any aluminum hull boat coming off plane slowing down for a no wake zone like the one in front of our camp. The idea of PWCs hurting fish, wildlife or vegetation is not true either due in part to a grate covering the impeller there is very little chance of damage or injury, opposed to a lower unit of an outboard engine with a spinning propeller. Some may argue that PWCs chase or can be dangerous for loons or other birds. As a previous PWC owner operator and someone that has been on this pond for as long as I have, I have never seen this. There are laws for riding at high speed within 200 feet of shore and there are laws against circling in one spot to keep people from annoying another. Some people classify PWC owners as evil, disrespectful, just awful people but in fact in most cases we are the same people that paddle by your camp on a paddle board or kayak waving and saying hello. We are the same people you will see fishing in an aluminum boat or taking wildlife pictures or you may see us out for a hike on Rum Mountain. These PWC operators out on the water are people like my 76 year old retired father or my 30 year old niece who is a school teacher or my sister in-law who is a single mother with a special

needs son. She can't afford a boat but is able to put a smile on her kids faces with the ability to get on the water with a PWC. Now I can't speak for all of the PWC operators on Wilson Pond but the few that I know are respectful, upstanding individuals that just want to enjoy the pond just as much as the people taking photographs of the beauty of the pond. My motto has been live and let live. I know we all have different opinions of what we consider an enjoyable time on Wilson Pond. I think we can all agree that the PWC use on the pond is minimal to say the least. Out of 365 days I might see PWC 8-10 times. Let's all enjoy the pond without more restrictions. Please do not pass LD56. As I stated earlier there are effective laws in place to handle any and all water-craft related violations.