

Testimony in SUPPORT of
LD 693, "An Act to Protect Inland Water Quality, Shorelines, Wildlife, & Public Safety
by Prohibiting Operation of a Wake Boat to Create an Enhanced Wake
Close to Shore or in Shallow Water"

Before the Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Presented by Jayne Winters, South China, ME

March 22, 2023

Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry, distinguished members of the Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Committee, my name is Jayne Winters. I have lived in Maine all my life and currently reside in South China, as well as maintain a summer home on Sebec Lake in Bowerbank. I am submitting comments in SUPPORT of LD 693, "An Act to Protect Inland Water Quality, Shorelines, Wildlife, & Public Safety by Prohibiting Operation of a Wake Boat to Create an Enhanced Wake Close to Shore or in Shallow Water."

In addition to having decades of family connection to Sebec Lake, one of the reasons my husband and I chose it as the location for our summer home is its excellent water quality. Over the years, we have come to appreciate even more the wildlife and birds, including the resident loons and eagles.

Over the past 25 years, however, we've noticed a significant increase in boat traffic. Certainly not all, but some boaters seem to take pleasure in annoying and unsafe practices, such as noise, litter, and general disregard for shorefront property, other boats, kayakers, and even swimmers.

LD 693 would prohibit creating enhanced wake within 500' of the shoreline or in waters less than 20' deep. In an effort to address the concerns noted above, passage of this bill would also protect loon nesting sites. I respectfully urge you to pass LD 693 to help make Maine waters safer for their users and wildlife. Thank you for your consideration.