

Hello. My name is Sal Girifalco. I live at 8 Mary Lane, Norway, Maine and am the President of the Lakes Association of Norway (LAON) and I fully support LD 693 in its efforts to control damaging boat wake. LAON works to protect Norway's four lakes, Lake Penneesseewassee, North Pond, Sand Pond, and Hobbs Pond. Like most lakes in Maine, ours have been increasingly battered by ever higher boat wake. Unfortunately, wake boats are a game changer. In the past, large wake was mostly caused by boater negligence. Wake boat wake is high by design; it is the selling point. Large wake has injured people, damaged docks, been dangerous for kayaks and canoes, and has caused significant damage to our shorelines. Believe me, I hear complaints about wake from our members every year. We communicate wake management to as many people as we can, but each year our lakes are visited by thousands of boaters. We only have Courtesy Boat Inspections on one lake, and that lake alone does well over 2,000 inspections each year.

LAON has been working very hard to control erosion because of the phosphorus laden runoff that it brings to our lakes. To that end, we have completed two watershed surveys, and been awarded two EPA funded 319 grants that addressed around 70 erosion sites on two lakes, spending well over \$100,000 and utilizing hundreds of volunteer hours and equipment. We have tackled many types of erosion issues, and perhaps the most difficult is shoreline erosion. Our solutions follow Best Management Practices and are designed to prevent future erosion by eliminating damaging water flow via road or driveway design, buffer plantings, and many other solutions. Stabilizing an undercut shoreline is not easy, and we have not found good solutions. In fact, anything done to stabilize an eroded shoreline doesn't prevent the damaging water from battering the shoreline, it just tries to slow the erosion. Controlling wake seems like the only true preventive measure available. We have found that once undercut, a shoreline cannot be restored. Trees and rocks fall into the water, as does the sediment. Then the next layer of shoreline is damaged, then the next.

We fully understand that some shoreline erosion is caused by wind, but this body cannot control weather, so it is necessary to control what it can. Also, on our lakes wind tends to be predominantly from one direction, so most of the time it affects one shore. Wake goes in all directions, crashing against shorelines not typically hit by wind generated wake, so on many shorelines, boat wake is the primary source of damage.

I thank you for allowing the public to provide input to such an important topic. Please help us, and all of Maine's lakes by passing legislation to reduce damage caused by boat wake.

Thank you,

Sal Girifalco – LAON President