

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

March 19, 2023

Dear Legislators:

I am a seasonal resident on the shore of Little Ossipee Pond, in Waterboro Maine, and have treasured this lake for over 55 years. I served on the Little Ossipee Lake Association Board of Directors for over 9 years and am proud to continue as an active member and advocate working to protect and preserve the lake. Boats and boating activity have changed dramatically over the years – bigger, faster, and far too many with ballasts full, circling around our pond throwing huge, forceful waves upon the shore. We've seen storms where majestic shoreline pines, with their massive root systems chiseled away by these wakes, have toppled onto the land (and homes!). This results in large areas of exposed soil and sand which then erode even more rapidly.

We monitor our shoreline and do our best to prevent erosion, but we are literally shoveling against the tide while wakeboard boats are permitted to operate here. The large waves have damaged our land, dock and boat. Even wading has become a challenge for children and older adults as the wakes become quite violent, making it unsafe.

In addition to being a natural treasure, Little Ossipee is a tremendous asset to the Town of Waterboro and its businesses. Please support this bill to take a step toward preservation of Little Ossipee Pond and small bodies of water across the state of Maine. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Karen Cummings
43 Dean Drive
N. Waterboro, MA 04061

Little Ossipee Pond, Waterboro Maine

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