

March 22, 2023

To: Chair and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee

From: Terry Lochhead, Brownfield Maine

Re: HB 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

Good afternoon Committee Chair and Members.

My name is Terry Lochhead. I live at 147 Main Street in Brownfield Maine and I own a camp with my brother on Barker Pond in Sebago Maine.

I am testifying today in favor of HB 693.

Barker Pond is about a mile long and half a mile wide. It's 10-20 feet deep in many places, about 40 feet at its deepest. Our house is built on a sandy bluff about 30 feet high.

My first encounter with a wake boat was about ten years ago when the wake from a wake boat knocked my seven year old grand daughter out of a kayak. I was outraged at the driver's carelessness. But soon I realized, the boat was supposed to throw out an oversized wake.

Since then, daily wake boat trips have sent oversized waves crashing against our sandy bluff, tearing away the sand at the base of the bluff. Plants growing in the rocks on the shoreline are pounded and uprooted so that their ability to hold in the bank is destroyed. The result is that the soil around rocks and tree roots on the bank and at the water's edge is crumbling and sifting away, helping a once stable bank to destabilize. What used to occur once in awhile in a storm, now happens multiple times a day in the summer.

I have posted flyers quoting the state law on the 200 ft no-wake zone, and Ive even mailed the flyers to all the houses on my side of the lake. It's had minimal effect because the lake is so small and a big wake travels a good distance. Passing HB 693 would at least send a message that the State is looking at this problem and is in effect outlawing wake boats on small lakes. That's what should happen - outlawing wake boats on small lakes- so HB 693 is at least a step in the right direction.