

Ricker Hamilton
Bridgton
LD 693

Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry and Members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, I write to you in opposition of 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'.

I am concerned about the accuracy of the Minnesota research that suggested that wakes should be kept 500 feet from shore; possible unintended consequences of LD 963 and the creation of another unnecessary law. I encourage the Committee and others to work with Maine citizens, boat owners and representatives of Maine boating industry to gather more information and facts. For example, I understand that the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) has supported a 200-foot wake safety zone and that the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) has reviewed the Minnesota wake study and from their analysis has developed a list of flaws in that study. We should also look to other neighboring states like New Hampshire and see how they have effectively dealt with similar Legislative proposals.

I live on Moose Pond in Bridgton, Maine, in a cottage we have owned since 1990. As a life-long Maine resident, I have enjoyed Maine's lakes and ponds. We have owned three wake boats through the years which have provided our family with many hours of enjoyment in Maine's summers. Wake boats are very safe and operate around 10 MPH when surfing. I am concerned that LD 693 would create a safety hazard for us on Moose Pond if all operation is limited to a small zone in the middle of our pond.

Thank you for accepting this brief testimony. I look forward to the Committee's work on LD 693 and commit to further assistance if the Committee desires.