

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of LD-693, an act to protect our lakes and ponds from the effects of wake boat operations. I do not oppose the sport of wake surfing. Rather I support this act that will put some common-sense restrictions on wake boating that will protect lake shorelines, lake bottoms, and water quality.

I am a Mainer who has fished and recreated on Maine waters for over a half century. I see the increasing effects of shoreline erosion from the massive waves created by wake boats. These waves are obviously much higher and stronger than waves created by most small fishing boats and pontoon boats. These waves can even be hazardous for inexperienced canoers and kayakers.

It is important that the sport of wake surfing be prevented within 500 feet of the shoreline and in waters less than 20 feet deep. This will reduce wake-caused erosion, keep lake water clean, protect fragile lakeside habitats, and keep shallow waters safe for families, swimmers, and other boaters.

Maine's beautiful lakes and ponds are a critical natural resource underpinning Maine's tourism economy. This act will help maintain water quality and the economy on which it is based.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,

Orrin C. Shane, III
9 Fieldstone Court
Portland, Maine

Orrin Shane
Retired
LD 693

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