

March 21, 2023

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

Dear Senator LaFontaine, Rep. Landry, and distinguished members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife,

My name is Laura Shakris. My husband and I are year-round residents of Maine, residing at 44 Woodland Shore Drive in Naples - on the beautiful shores of Long Lake. We have owned this property for twenty-eight years.

When we purchased this piece of lakefront property we were enamored by the beauty and peacefulness of life on the waterfront and enjoyed the excitement and bustle of living in a lively summer community. For many years we enjoyed watching a nearby loon nest and seeing the eggs become chicks, and mature into young adults along our shores. The rocky shoreline provided protection for native plants and small land animals including ermine, musk, fox, squirrels, + chipmunks. As wake boats have increased in popularity, the landscape has changed.

Over recent years, we have noticed the large wake produced by these wake boats has caused big wave activity along our shoreline. Boats passing at 200 feet from shore create big waves which cause major erosion. Smaller rocks become dislodged, causing further instability to larger rocks and a loss of natural plant life... eventually destabilizing the shoreline that for years had been secure. The loon nest no longer exists where it had been for 20+ years. And the waves created by the wake boats passing close to shore make enough turbulence to splash over and through the slats of our dock, making it unpleasant and unsafe to sit on the dock. In addition, with increased wave activity we have noticed a nasty increase in dead fish floating near our dock in 10-15 ft of water. In early spring, we might still see an occasional animal scurry along the waterfront.

However, once summer arrives and wake boats appear, the animals obviously choose a safer route to traverse the shoreline, ... or have disappeared completely! (???)

I strongly encourage you to support LD 693 for the health and safety of our waterfront and for the safety of natural habitat and plant life. Growth and popularity of lake activities including boating is natural and expected. However, there is no reason to operate these wake boats so close to the shoreline as to damage it!

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please vote to pass LD 693.

Sincerely,
Laura A. Shakvet