Dan Higgins Hamlin's Marine LD 693

I oppose a bill that would further restrict the use of wake/surf category watercraft on Maine lakes. These boats are no different than other categories of watercraft when surf/wake technology is not activated. Dangerous, damaging, and irresponsible operation of the of these boats is the sole responsibility of the operator. Small lakes and ponds simply won't accommodate this category of watercraft because of their design characteristics and draft. Wake/Surf sports are widely enjoyed in Maine, and there is a cottage industry of training young athletes at long-established summer camps in Maine that attract campers from all over the world. As principal of Hamlin's Marine, a dealer of Mastecraft boats, our annual sales of Wake/Surf category boats is approximately \$1 million annually. I estimate that we have 10% of the market in Maine, so I believe the sale of these boats exceed \$10 M per year on a state-wide basis.