

Cynthia Ripley  
Vienna  
LD 173

Good afternoon Chair Baldacci, Chair Roberts, and Distinguished Members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee.

I am writing to oppose LD 173, an act that would exempt canoes, kayaks and rowboats equipped with a motor less than 100 HP from boat registration requirements.

Our family has summered on Flying Pond for over 60 years. We have seen a huge increase in population and water use over the years. This means not only more people, but many more boats.

This bill would decrease revenue that is vital to protecting our Maine waters. I fear that, since there is no definition of "rowboat", there could be widespread misuse of this exemption. The 100 HP limit could exempt a high percentage of boats on many of our lakes.

As a member of the Board of Directors of 30 Mile River Watershed I have seen first hand the impact of human use on the ponds, rivers and streams. I have volunteered for many years as part of the Invasive Plant Patrol team, Lake Smart and am a member of the Board of Flying Pond Improvement Association. We are currently in need of increased funding to protect our lakes. This Bill would decrease income and provide less regulation over motorboat use.

Current funding for lake preservation education and initiatives is simply not enough and this Bill would only make it worse. Please say "no" to this bill to help protect our beautiful ponds, the economy of many towns and villages and the livelihood of their residents. I urge you to oppose LD 173 in order to help protect the future health of Maine's lakes and the safety of those who enjoy them. Thank you for your time and consideration.