

Elizabeth Trehu
Vienna
LD 173

Letter to Oppose LD 173

I live in Vienna, ME, in close proximity to Parker Pond and Minnehonk Lake, have a camp on Flying Pond, and am writing to voice my opposition to LD 173, An Act to Exempt Certain Watercraft from Registration Requirements. This bill makes no sense and will directly impair ongoing efforts to keep our lakes clean and healthy. I am on the Invasive Plant Patrol Team for Flying Pond and every year when I do my survey I am terrified that I might find invasive milfoil or some other plant that would change our lake for many years to come, if not indefinitely. Our lakes are under constant threat from introduction of invasive species by visiting watercraft, and prevention and treatment require funding provided by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Our overtaxed teams of volunteer courtesy boat inspectors and invasive plant patrol teams cannot do it all. Just last year a new invasive bladderwort species was discovered in our watershed, which is already fighting an ongoing battle with invasive milfoil in Androscoggin Lake. Exempting canoes, kayaks, and rowboats with motors of up to 100 HP (seriously, I thought that was a typo!) from the registration requirement would deprive IFW of desperately needed funds to support prevention and treatment of invasive plant infestations. To add insult to injury, most boat owners, if not required to register, would be unlikely to pay for the Lake and River Protection Sticker Program, further reducing available funds. Invasive plants are introduced into our lakes by visiting watercraft, so it is common sense and only fair that they should have to contribute to the costs for prevention and remediation.