

Testimony in Opposition to LD 173

An Act to Exempt Certain Watercraft from Registration Requirements

Submitted to Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee

Public Hearing: February 10, 2025 at 1:00 pm



To: Chair Baldacci, Chair Roberts, and Distinguished Members of the Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Committee

From: Cheryl St. Peter, Friends of Cross Lake Project Manager <https://www.friendsofcrosslake.org/>
203 Cyr Road, Cross Lake, Maine 04779, countyee@fairpoint.net, 207-768-6617

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 173, which exempts canoes, kayaks, and rowboats with up to 100 HP motors from requiring registration.

Our membership organization's mission is to protect and improve Cross Lake's water quality, and this bill could have significant impacts to all Maine's lakes, including our own Cross Lake.

Cross Lake is a high-risk lake for invasive aquatic species, especially lake-destroying [Zebra mussels](#), which were recently discovered less than 30 miles away in the St. John River! Dakota Stankowski, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (IF&W) was hired with funds from the increased Lake & River Protection Sticker Program. She monitors high risk lakes for zebra mussels and other invasive aquatic fish and animals. The loss of revenue by exempting these individual boats with motors could put a stop this important monitoring, as well as other important invasive species work, like funding for the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program and invasive plant removal.

Any boat with a motor can transfer invasives from an infected lake to any other lake. I don't see any reason why these particular types of boats with motors should be exempt. Although these boaters are still supposed to purchase a Lake & River Protection Sticker, in reality there is no incentive or easy way for that to actually happen, and this loss of revenue would seriously affect IF&W's ability to continue its work to protect lakes from invasive aquatic species.

I therefore urge the committee to vote NO on this bill and keep the existing registration requirements for ALL boats with motors.