

Robert Capers
Fayette
LD 173

Dear members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee.

I write to offer my thoughts on LD 173, which would exempt certain watercraft from the state's registration requirements. I am a resident of Fayette, where I work as a volunteer in surveying several ponds for invasive aquatic plants. My thoughts on this bill are based on my years of experience as a plant biologist, working in canoes, kayaks and rowboats as I conducted research on aquatic plant communities. No serious person would consider putting a 100 hp motor on a canoe or kayak. That would be at least unnecessary and probably unsafe. I suspect that whoever proposed this legislation was having some fun with the legislature or the legislative process. I suggest that the bill be rejected and that whoever suggested this ridiculous change in the state's watercraft registration be invited to revise it. If they then can suggest something reasonable, we might be willing to think about it further.