

Testimony in **OPPOSITION** to LD 173
An Act To Exempt Certain Watercraft from Registration Requirements
Submitted to IF&W Committee
February 10, 2025

My name is John Stanek. I reside in West Gardiner, ME on the shore of Lake Cobbosseecontee and sit on the Board of Directors of the Cobbosseecontee Lake Association. Our mission is to preserve and protect Lake Cobbosseecontee. Our association has grown from 300 members to over 700 in a very short time because of concerns about Invasive Aquatic Plants and water quality issues. I can say with assurance that our membership would oppose this legislation but I only speak for myself here.

There is no definition of "rowboat" in this proposed legislation. Does any boat with a paddle on board qualify as a "rowboat"? It seems that this bill would diminish substantially the revenue IF&W uses to support lake protection programs that benefit all Maine Lakes.

I urge the committee to maintain existing registration standards and vote no in this bill.

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