



Testimony in **OPPOSITION** of:

**LD 173, An Act to Exempt Certain Watercraft from
Registration Requirements**

*Submitted to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee,
February 12, 2025*

Dear Members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee,

7 Lakes Alliance, a nonprofit organization committed to conserving the lands and waters of the Belgrade Lakes Region for all, strongly opposes *LD 173, An Act to Exempt Certain Watercraft from Registration Requirements*. This bill exempts canoes, kayaks, and rowboats with up to 100 HP motors from boat registration requirements. We ask that the committee consider the broad range of motorized vessels that exemption would apply to and realize that the majority of the boats visiting and owned in Maine would fall into that category.

Loss of revenue that supports crucial invasive aquatics species programs

Maine is fortunate to have robust Invasive Aquatic Species (IAS) initiatives that prevent IAS from entering waterbodies in Maine through the Courtesy Boat Inspector Program and remediation teams who remove harmful IAS from infested lakes to minimize negative impacts to wildlife and recreational activities. Both prevention and remediation programs are funded in part by the Lake and River Protection Sticker Program. Even though the proposed exemption would still require boat owners to purchase a Lake and River Protection Sticker, there would be little incentive for that to happen without the sticker's association with registration requirements.

We urge the committee to maintain existing registration requirements and vote no on this bill.

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7 Lakes Alliance