

Anne Terry
East Pond Association
LD 1435

To whom it may concern:

I am the Secretary of the East Pond Association, where we have an IF&W-owned public boat launch located in the town of Oakland.

Our lake association funds the Courtesy Boat Inspection staffing at this boat launch during the times of year that experience the most boat traffic. We do this via a combination of volunteer hours and paid staff hours with costs covered by fundraising from our members as well as grants from the towns of Smithfield and Oakland.

I've spent my life on this lake, and I am the second generation in my family to serve on the East Pond Association Board. In that time, I've seen the challenges the lake faces change over the years- and, if anything, expand to include new risks. As the priorities have changed, the East Pond Association and 7 Lakes Alliance have been at the forefront of educating residents and visitors to our lake about what people need to do to show up in ways that are lake-friendly. Off the top of my head, this has included:

- Checking boats for millfoil before entering the lake
- Identifying and reporting curly-leaf pondweed, a highly invasive aquatic plant, which was spotted in our lake in 2021
- Raising funds to cover a \$1.2M alum treatment to combat algae blooms in 2018, and promoting practices and changes to prevent phosphorous-laden runoff into the lake from local commercial and residential properties, as well as roads.
- Education about wake zones to prevent erosion
- Following Audubon's best practices to support the dwindling loon population on the lake

We support this via a combination of printed brochures, meetings, advocacy, and much more. In all cases, prevention is much more cost-effective than remediation, and public compliance is critical to that. This was made all the more challenging- particularly for day visitors- by the removal of an information kiosk at our boat launch by IF&W as well as a professionally constructed sign educating boat launch users about curly leaf pondweed.

I strongly support LD 1435 which will restore this critical education infrastructure. Right now, for day visitors in particular, unless there is a Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) present, there is no way for us to provide education about lake-friendly practices. Not only is it cost-prohibitive for us to staff the boat launch 24/7 during the entire season, the absence of a kiosk makes the education provided by the CBIs less likely to be fully understood and taken seriously. And given that the conservation priorities can vary from lake to lake and year to year on a given lake, providing ample space to the lake associations and other local conservation organizations such as 7 Lakes Alliance will result in the most up to date and lake-specific information being shared.

