

Robert Capers  
Fayette  
LD 1763

Greetings. I am a plant biologist living in Fayette, where I coordinate aquatic plant surveys for the Basin, David and Tilton Ponds Association. I am writing to express my support for LD 1763, which would provide badly needed clarity to the state's laws on houseboats and floating camps. As pointed out by the working group on nonwater-dependent structures in its 2023 report, this is an area where more definition was needed. The number of "floating camps" and other floating structures without motors on Maine's lakes and ponds has been increasing, and the state had no way to regulate them. With the rapid rise in the number of short-term rental units for vacationers, further increases in the number of floating camps can be anticipated, and those camps need to be regulated so they do not compromise water quality in our lakes. Any structure on the water that has a bedroom but no bathroom is inviting trouble. The state's lakes are already suffering the consequences of rising nutrient levels, primarily because of shoreline development, and additional contributions are certainly not needed. I hope this committee will support the proposed legislation, and I thank you for considering this important issue.