

TESTIMONY REGARDING LD1763

**An Act to Regulate Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters**

Date April 30, 2025

Dear Senator Baldacci and Representative Roberts and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for your dedicated service to the people of Maine. I commend you for your thoughtfulness and hard work.

**I submit this testimony in support of LD 1763, An Act to Regulate Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters and I strongly encourage you to support this bill.**

I am a resident of Dover-Foxcroft with a year-round home on Sebec Lake and an unequalled view of Borestone Mountain. I am writing in support of LD 1763. I am a member of the Sebec Lake Association whose members work hard to ensure the quality of the lake water supports not only fishing, but also is safe for human recreation. I fully support recreational use of the Lake on a day basis, but not long term placement of structures that could block views for shore residents, interfere with usual recreation like water skiing, fishing, swimming and general boating.

Allowing "houseboats" and other Nonwater-Dependent Floating Structures could pose a risk to water quality and potentially affect the fragile shoreline ecosystem that we work so hard to maintain for the benefit of all who use the Lake. We occasionally have had to deal with E.Coli infections in late summer when the water is low and warm. As a physician, I am concerned that long-term placement of such structures could risk discharge of waste into the water, a particular concern as we face periodic low water condition with unusual warming of the shoreline water which would make it more prone to breeding infectious organisms.

Furthermore, such structures will degrade the experience of nature and the scenery which camp owners look forward to, thus potentially affecting real estate values and desirability of summer rentals. This is not minor in a community that struggles to maintain an economic base.

I urge support of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you

Lesley M Fernow

80 Cotton Brook Rd

Dover-Foxcroft