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Vienna
LD 1763

Testimony in Support of LD1763

I am writing in strong support of LD 1763, An Act to Regulate Non-water-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters.

I live in Vienna, Maine, in close proximity to Parker Pond and Minnehonk Lake, and my family owns a camp on Flying Pond, where I am on the board of the Flying Pond Improvement Association and a member of the Invasive Plant Patrol and LakeSmart evaluation teams. I am also chairman and the representative from Vienna on the board of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30 Mile).

Members of the working group whose contributions have led to this proposed legislation are to be commended on their very thorough research and analysis; their testimony will provide a comprehensive list of all the compelling reasons to support this bill. I am writing to provide my personal input on a few issues as a lakefront homeowner who is passionate about keeping our lakes and ponds clean, healthy, and beautiful for future generations.

First, these structures have an immediate negative impact on the natural beauty that is one of the greatest attributes of our lakes and ponds. Shoreland zoning rules that regulate new construction and tree removal are intended to maintain the integrity and natural beauty of our shorelines as well as to protect the health of the lakes. House-like structures on the water are unsightly clutter that will detract from the beauty of our lakes and be detrimental to property values.

Second, our lakes are in a fragile condition already due to run-off from storms and septic. Androscoggin Lake has already succumbed to a yearly algae bloom that prevents water related activities for a significant part of each summer. The release of wastewater from these floating structures would be an environmental catastrophe that would cost millions of dollars and many years to address.

Third, floating structures would interfere with water sports on the lakes and with the health of the littoral zones. Kayakers and fishermen often keep close to shore where they can see and enjoy the aquatic and shoreline plants and where the fish are more abundant. Floating structures close to shore will create permanent shade that will negatively change the very nature of these areas. Floating structures further from shore will interfere with sailing and water-skiing.

Finally, many of the lakes in our watershed are within the jurisdiction of two or more towns and therefore a unified statewide regulation is necessary to avoid confusion. I urge you to do the right thing to protect this important natural resource and support LD 1763.