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LD 1763

Support LD 1763

Senator Roberts, Representative Mason and members of the Joint Committee on  
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife -

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 1763, legislation that would prohibit the use of so-called "floating camps" or unpermitted waterborne structures on Maine lakes and waterways and I commend Representative Hepler for bringing this issue forward.

I am concerned that these floating structures pose serious threats to our environment, public safety, and the character of our inland lakes and waterways.

As reported by many media outlets, these floating structures are essentially unregulated homes on rafts complete with generators and often lack proper waste disposal systems which may be discharged threatening water quality and posing threats to wildlife and humans.

These structures are typically anchored either close to shore or in the middle of the lake creating navigation hazards for boaters as well.

Local residents and municipalities have voiced overwhelming opposition to these types of camps, yet there is little recourse under current regulations.

I do support the right of all Mainers to enjoy equal access to our lakes and natural resources and commend the State for maintaining access through our state park system. We must, however, act close this regulatory gap and prevent the unchecked spread of floating camps. I respectfully urge you to pass LD 1763 to prohibit these structures, enforce standards for waste management and mooring, and protect public waters for future generations of Mainers.

Thank you for your time and consideration and for your service to the people of Maine.