

Cynthia Ripley
30 Mile River Watershed Association
LD 1763

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you today as a property owner on Flying Pond as well as a board member of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association. Our family has been summering here for decades and love the lakes of Maine dearly. I urge you to support LD 1763 to help protect our beautiful Maine Lakes.

We already know that the ponds, lakes and streams of Maine are fragile. The shallow areas near the shores are breeding and feeding grounds as well as shelter for many aquatic species. They are balanced ecosystems that are important in so many ways. Non-Water-Dependent Floating Structures (NWFS) can shade shallow areas and lower dissolved oxygen. They can alter the water quality which affects people and the economy as well as fish and other wildlife.

Without regulation there is a very real possibility of sewage, human waste and grey water posing a risk to water quality as well as public health. Leaking sewage discharged directly into lakes is probable and not acceptable. Part of the beauty of our lakes will disappear if we have these structures on the water. Imagine the view that we all hope to see? Property values as well as tourism will be affected.

Some towns have already made their own laws banning NWFS. This bill will help by providing a uniform state regulation. This will, in turn, lessen the burden on towns and provide consistent lake protection across the state.

The environmental, economic and esthetic negative impact of these structures present many potential problems. Please vote to support prohibition of the placement or use of these NFDS in, on or over inland or coastal waters and protect our Maine waters.

Thank you