



April 30, 2025

RE: **Testimony in Support of LD 1763** - An Act to Regulate Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters

Dear Chair Baldacci, Chair Roberts, and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee,

My name is Alison Cooney, and I am the Executive Director for Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM), a statewide nonprofit dedicated to protecting Maine's lakes. We train and support volunteer community scientists who collect credible data on lake health through our Water Quality Monitoring and Aquatic Invasive Species programs. With over 1200 trained volunteers monitoring more than 500 lakes across the state, we play a key role in helping the Maine Department of Environmental Protection track and manage lake conditions. Our volunteers are especially vital in reporting algae blooms and early detection of aquatic invasive species.

As an organization deeply invested in protecting water quality, we are concerned about the potential impact of unregulated floating structures – particularly those that may include overnight accommodations and/or require wastewater disposal. Without proper regulation and onshore receiving facilities (pump stations), we risk situations where waste is discharged directly into the lake whether intentionally or because of a lack of facilities. We have received reports of both wastewater and greywater (such as that generated from use of soap) discharge from our community. These discharges can degrade water quality and harm lake ecosystems, which in turn may negatively impact property values, tourism, and the broader local economy.

Discharges coming from nonwater-dependent floating structures are not only unsanitary but undermine the work of our volunteers and partners who dedicate their time to monitoring and protecting Maine's waters. We believe this bill is an important step toward ensuring that floating structures are regulated in a way that safeguards the long-term health of our lakes.

I urge you to vote **Ought to Pass on LD 1763**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alison Cooney, LSM Executive Director
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