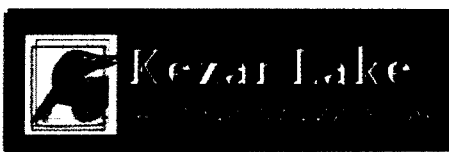


March 22, 2023

Re: Support for LD 693: "An Act to Protect Inland Water Quality, Shorelines, Wildlife and Public Safety by Prohibiting Operation of a Wake Boat to Create an Enhanced Wake Close to Shore or in Shallow Water "

Dear Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry, and distinguished members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife,

My name is Steve Lewis, I live in Stoneham, Maine, almost on the Maine, New Hampshire border. I am the President of the Kezar Lake Watershed Association with over 400 members which has been involved in monitoring and protecting the water bodies in the Kezar Lake watershed for over 50 years.



<https://kezarwatershed.org/>

I have also been a volunteer water quality monitor with the Lake Stewards of Maine for over 25 years, taking basic water quality measurements in Horseshoe Pond, part of the Kezar Lake watershed, where my residence is.

You have received a lot of testimony about the problems that large wakes cause with capsizing boats, damage to property, severe threats to nesting Loons, and erosion and sedimentation issues. These issues are real. I have had many people come up to me pleading to have something done about wake boats as they are afraid to go out in their canoes, kayaks, and on stand-up paddleboards anymore; particularly older people. One person I know of won't even put their kayak in the lake anymore. This is unacceptable.

The Kezar Lake Watershed Association has done a lot of work, championed by Don Griggs, to educate people in our area about the issues of large wakes and strong prop wash using fliers and posters widely distributed to get the word out. We have also worked with, and gained the cooperation of, the local marina in making it clear where wake boats should not go. Most users of wake boats are courteous and do the right thing. However, there are those that do not, and feel that they do not have to. These are the people that make this regulation necessary, at a minimum. I would argue that there should be even more limits set, such as allowing only mid-day operations so people know when they can safely go out in their smaller watercraft and not be at risk of capsizing, to name just one.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I encourage you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 693.

Respectfully,

Stephen Lewis

President, Kezar Lake Watershed Association 925-8020