

Testimony of Peter Lidiak
Before the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
On Behalf of the Cobbosseecontee Lake Association
IN OPPOSITION to LD 173 An Act to Exempt Certain Watercraft from Registration Requirements
2/10/2025

Good afternoon, Chair Baldacci, Chair Roberts, and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Peter Lidiak. I am a resident of Monmouth, ME and here today representing the Cobbosseecontee Lake Association (CLA).

The mission of CLA is to serve as proactive stewards of our lake committed to protecting and improving all aspects of water quality, lake beauty, wildlife, and enjoyment of the lake for current and future generations.

CLA opposes LD 173 because it proposes to exempt from registration fees kayaks, canoes and row boats with motors rated less than 100 horsepower. Registration fees contribute to State safety, resource management, and environmental protection programs, including boating safety checks, the inspection of boats being launched on and mitigation of invasive species that have taken root in our state waters.

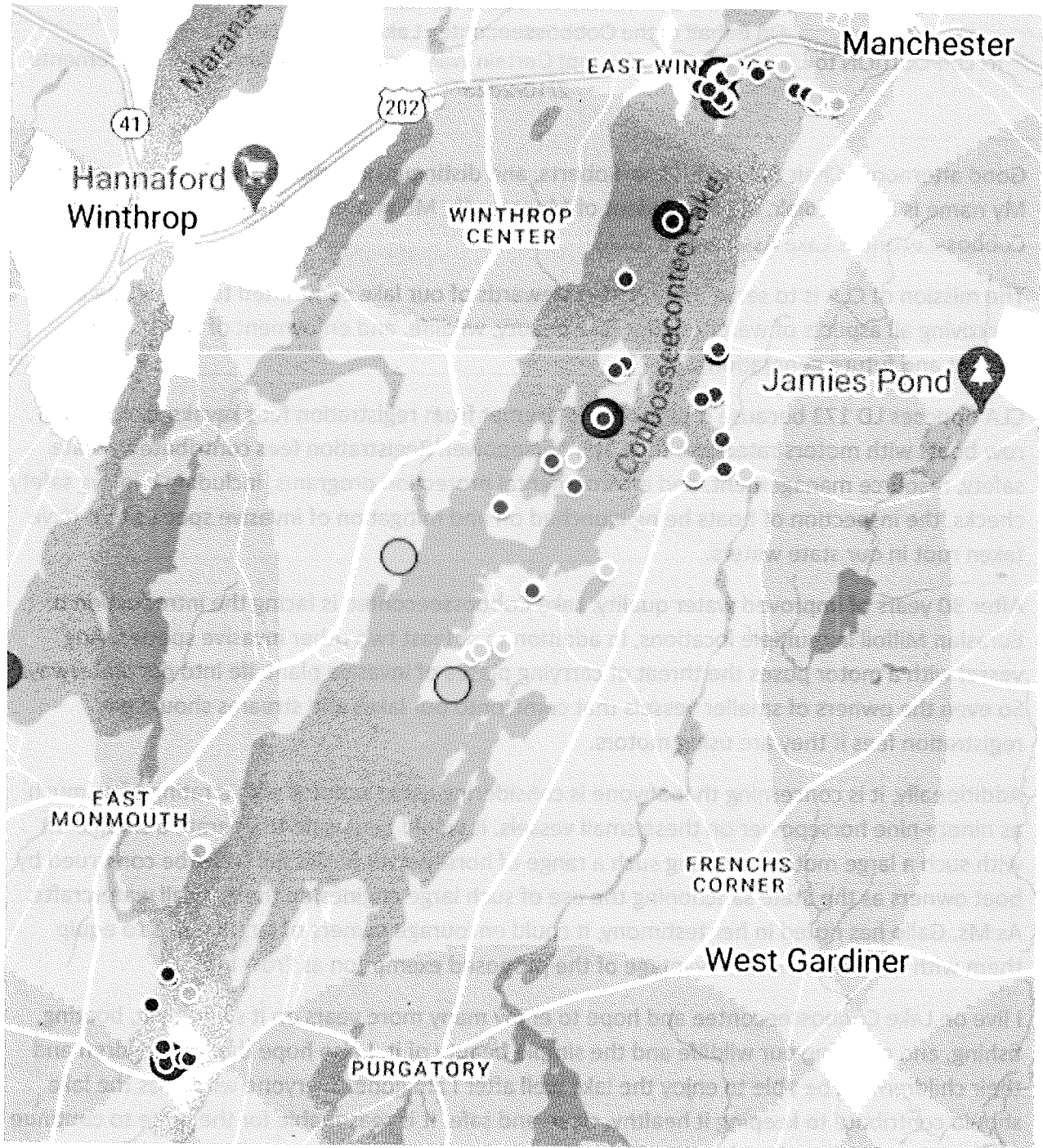
After 30 years of improved water quality, Lake Cobbosseecontee is facing the introduction of Eurasian Milfoil in multiple locations, in addition to at least two other invasive species. Any vessel with a motor poses the threat of carrying pieces of invasive plant life into our waterways. So even the owners of smaller vessels that come onto our lakes and streams should pay registration fees if they are using motors.

Additionally, it is concerning that anyone is considering using a motor with a rating of as much as ninety-nine horsepower on these small vessels. It would be unsafe to operate a small craft with such a large motor. Including such a range of horsepower in this bill could be construed by boat owners as the State sanctioning the use of such large engines on these small watercrafts. As Ms. Gallo has noted in her testimony, it could encourage owners of larger boats to equip them with oarlocks to take advantage of the proposed exemption as "row boats."

I live on Lake Cobbosseecontee and hope to enjoy many more years on it swimming, boating, fishing, and enjoying our wildlife and the simple beauty of it. I also hope that my children and their children will be able to enjoy the lake well after I am gone. Everyone who uses the lake should contribute to keeping it healthy, clean and safe. It is reasonable for the State to continue to charge registration fees for motorized watercraft that may come onto our lake or others across the State.

We urge the committee to maintain existing registration standards and vote no on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I am prepared to answer any questions.



● Eurasian Watermilfoil

● European Frogbit

● Variable Leaf Milfoil