

Lakes Environmental Association

Protecting Maine's lakes since 1970

April 25, 2025

Re: Support for LD 1763: "An Act to Regulate Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters"

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and distinguished members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife,

My name is Colin Holme and I am the Executive Director of the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA). Our organization has over 1300 members and a direct service area that covers 41 lakes in the upper Sebago Lake Region of western Maine. We regularly monitor the lakes and ponds in our service area, implement aquatic invasive control and prevention programs, provide school and adult based watershed education, and provide land use planning and mitigation services.

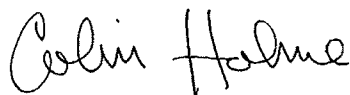
I am writing today because of specific instances within our service area where individuals have moored floating structures with the intent to live in or rent out nightly in the warmer months. In one instance, it was a large, old boat with the motor removed that was moored in a cove in Highland Lake for sporadic habitation for two summers. More recently, an individual built a structure on top of a pontoon boat frame and was renting it out nightly. While a home-made porta-potty was added to this structure later, it was originally rented without any bathroom accommodations.

In both these instances, these structures were moored on public waters without any permitting and often in front of private property in quiet coves. This is not fair to the residences of these communities, the shorefront property owners who pay high tax rates, and most importantly, it is not sanitary.

This is an issue across Maine that is only going to expand in years to come. LD 1763 addresses this issue by defining and prohibiting "Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures" on Maine's waters. This bill is also careful to define and exempt true houseboats which have sanitary facilities and are constructed for safe navigation on our waters.

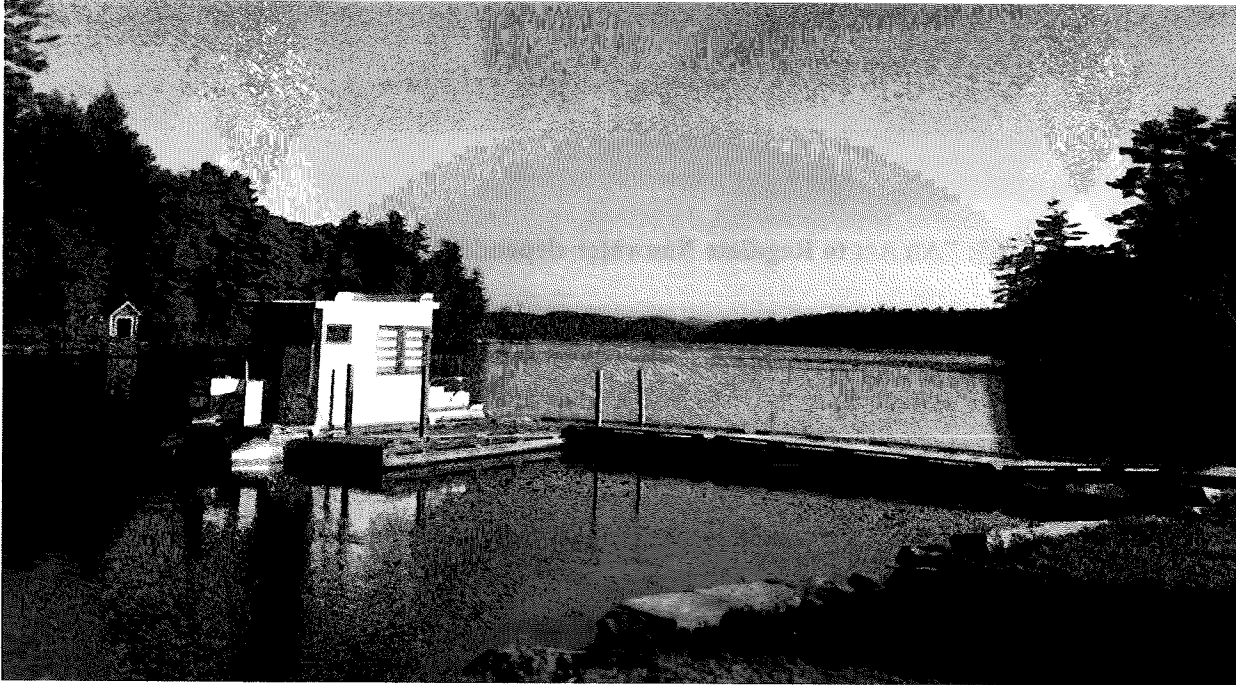
Please help protect our lakes by voting "ought to pass" on LD 1763.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.



Colin Holme
Executive Director
Lakes Environmental Association





This modified pontoon was used as a short-term rental on Highland Lake for two summers. While it was often moored in a nearby cove when used, some renters parked at the town of Bridgton's public dock overnight. This spurred the town to post signage at docks and contact the police and the warden service to have it removed.