

Testimony of Peter Lidiak  
Before the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
On Behalf of the Cobbosseecontee Lake Association  
IN SUPPORT of LD 1763 An Act to Regulate Non-water-dependent Floating Structures [NWFS] on  
Maine's Waters  
4/30/2025

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 supports LD 1763, "An Act to Regulate Non-water-dependent Floating Structures [NWFS] on Maine's Waters". While one or two floating structures on a lake may have only minimal impacts, we are concerned about the potential for more, larger, and widespread NWFS on our lakes. If more NWFS appear on our lakes, we are very concerned about the ecological and other impacts, including:

**Littoral Habitat:** Shallow, near-shore habitat is essential for Maine's fish and other aquatic life, providing feeding and breeding areas as well as cover and shelter. NWFS moored in shallow waters may damage these fragile aquatic habitats, altering fish habitat by shading out plant growth that is essential for feeding and reproduction. They may also change water temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels, impacting fish and other aquatic life.

**Sewage:** Sewage, human waste, and greywater pose a risk to public health, water quality, and wildlife. The risks posed by NWFS either leaking sewage (with substandard plumbing) or discharging directly into lakes are high and are not acceptable on our publicly owned Great Ponds. Assuring houseboats meet standards for waste management is an important piece of LD 1763.

**Equitable Access:** Access to our public waterways is an essential right. While one or two NWFS on a lake may not feel like a big deal, without statewide regulation the scale and range of NWFS will continue to grow. More NWFS create the potential for growing conflicts over access, as well as further degradations to lake water quality and potential negative impacts to our vital outdoor industries.

**Uniform Regulations:** Stress and tension have grown among towns as some towns have created ordinances prohibiting NWFS, resulting in shifts of NWFS to parts of lakes in neighboring towns. A uniform state regulation will lessen the regulatory burden on towns and eliminate a piece-meal approach that is confusing, while also providing equitable lake protection and access across the state.

**Rulemaking:** LD 1763 includes a provision for rulemaking around additional exceptions and clarifications, which we believe will be important given the complexity of the bill and the challenge in clearly defining NWFS. The public will have the opportunity to further comment on these implementing regulations.

Significant progress has been made over the last 30 years to clean up Cobbosseecontee Lake. As you may be aware, the inventory of available properties on the Lake is limited because properties rarely turn over. CLA is concerned that those unable to obtain a property on the shores of the lake will instead turn to NWFS to gain access, thus not only potentially spoiling water quality and lake habitat, but also the aesthetic beauty of the lake.

I hope to spend many more years on the lakes of Maine swimming, boating, fishing, and enjoying our wildlife and their simple beauty. I also hope that my children and their children will be able to enjoy the lakes well after I am gone. NWFS have the potential to degrade the quality of our lakes if not appropriately overseen.

We urge the committee to vote in favor of LD 1763.

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