

In support of LD 1763

An Act to Regulate Non-water-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters

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

I am Marilyn Wescott, a legal resident of Raymond, ME on Panther Pond, wintering in Brunswick. My husband Ross and I have supported lake health in Maine for over 20 years as participants in shoreland runoff grants, aquatic invasive species (AIS) detection and remediation and mentoring and educating potential lake stewards, especially in aquatic invasive species. We have devoted thousands of hours (not an exaggeration) to AIS (especially plants) surveying 42 lakes and several streams from the NH border to the Canadian border on the north and east.

We worry about water body degradation which we have seen in Maine over the past 59 years. Our tap water is drawn from the lake. Leaking septic systems and party boats drifting all day on lakes concern us for their polluting potential. Multi-day, unregulated non-water-dependent floating structures also worry us. Even though this legislation would give some regulation and recourse, we are a bit nervous regarding Houseboats that are used for short-term rental where the rentees have nothing at stake.

BUT, we applaud this bill, as it is in the nick of time and so well-crafted with clear, comprehensible, and comprehensive definitions---a gargantuan task. It also seems clear enough to be enforceable. We believe this bill merits an Ought To Pass designation. Thank you.

Marilyn and Ross Wescott
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