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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
IN SUPPORT OF LD 2023**

*Resolve to Establish a Working Group to  
Identify Ways to Manage Moorings on Inland Waters*

**January 21, 2026**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, my name is Tom Linscott, and I am the Director of the Boating Program within the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL). I am speaking on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) in support of LD 2023, *Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Identify Ways to Manage Moorings on Inland Waters*.

BPL's Boating Program includes a Navigational Aids division that manages more than 2500 waterway markers, along with chains and anchors, on 40 of Maine's most popular lakes. These navigational aids are critical to maintaining safe and orderly boat traffic. The haphazard placement of moorings, in many cases beyond the 200-foot Water Safety Zone, creates safety issues for the public and waterway management challenges for our staff.

It is important to clarify and strengthen current rules and regulations regarding the placement of moorings and other floating objects. As the waters of Maine become increasingly crowded with various types of recreational watercraft every year, existing rules and statutes that apply in both municipalities and the unorganized territories do not clearly and adequately address this growing concern. The Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC), a program within the Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning in DACF, is the planning, zoning, permitting, and code enforcement authority in the unorganized territories. LUPC also supports LD 2023 and would participate in a working group as needed.

We look forward to participating in the Working Group in the coming months to help identify effective ways to manage moorings.

I am happy to answer any questions now or at the work session.

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