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Wilton

Testimony in SUPPORT of:

LD 1307 An Act To Restrict the Sale, Purchase, and Use of Fireworks in the State

Submitted to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

May 7, 2021, 9:00 am

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of LD 1307. My name is Rob Lively and I live on Wilson Lake in Wilton. I expect fellow presenters/writers have, or will, share with you the more technical and scientific details of fireworks and safety, fireworks and wildlife, and fireworks and water quality. What I would like to do is to put the subject in more human terms; to tell you a story.

Many residents in the Wilson Lake shoreland zone are plagued by consumer fireworks. One couple has shared their story with me, asking that I share it with you. Here are their words:

My husband and I have been very concerned about fireworks on the lake. The professional display is tolerable and seems to be monitored well. However, fireworks in the hands of amateurs has provided experiences for us that range from unpleasant to very dangerous. I believe it was 2 years ago that our neighbors had visitors who set off a massive display, during a drought, which left our yard, dock, the water, and boat littered with ash and debris. We have found ash and pieces of the fireworks on the deck and roof of our house as well.

We have been startled out of bed on many occasions. I can't imagine the effects of the noise and debris is beneficial to our wildlife or our water quality.

We work hard to be Lake and Loon Smart and fireworks flies in the face of that. Leave fireworks to the professionals and out of the hands of folks who are inconsiderate at best, and drunk and dangerous at worst.

Thanks for your time and efforts in this matter. This has been a difficult issue for us since moving here.

To me, their experience clearly illustrates the negative impact consumer fireworks can have on the quality of life, that it can have a negative impact on real estate values, and that it can undermine the lake as a desirable vacation destination -- all of which undermines Wilson Lake as a major economic engine for Wilton and surrounding communities.

I urge the committee to pass LD 1307 in its entirety.

Thank you for your consideration.

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