

Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife  
c/o Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
[IFW@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:IFW@legislature.maine.gov)

Re: Public Hearing for LD 349 Prohibiting Personal Watercraft on Keyes Pond

Dear Senator Dill, Representative Landry and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting LD 349 An Act To Prohibit the Use of Personal Watercraft on Keyes Pond in the Town of Sweden.

We have owned our seasonal camp on Keyes Pond for 20 years. Prior to that, we rented annually for 7 years on a much larger lake in Western Maine. When we purchased lakefront property, we were very aware of the difference and we intentionally sought a smaller pond – less boat traffic and noise, closer access to water wildlife, more peace in a natural, environmentally sensitive surrounding.

Keyes Pond is a Maine jewel. Most watercraft there are kayaks, canoes, sunfish, rowboats, paddleboards and small motorboats. Fishermen have always respected the voluntary 5hp limit. And while we have never had a jet ski on this pond, we hope proactive legislation now will avoid future problems.

This is a small pond where the public comes to enjoy a quiet pond experience. Fishermen have a calm surrounding and a quiet catch, swimmers (young camp children up to elderly residents) can swim unafraid across the pond, birders can watch loon families on our two monitored nests, heron, ducks, kingfishers and eagles.

There are many other larger lakes nearby where one can go for jet skiing. Quiet meditative ponds are increasingly hard to come by and more needed in this world now than ever.

Maine lakes are sought after places to live, visit, seek recreation and enjoy natural beauty. Maine is blessed with a variety of lakes and it is important to recognize and respect their different identities. The public chooses to use Keyes Pond specifically because it does not have large-motor boats and jet skis. Keyes Pond is just the type and scale of pond that should be added to the list of lakes where the use of jet skis is prohibited.

The entire Keyes Pond community is united against the overwhelmingly negative environmental impact of jet skis on this small pond; LD 349 does not pit neighbor against neighbor. This is a pond whose residents actively participate in its care.

We invite you to visit, confident that you will appreciate the character, scale, and sense of place that Keyes Pond contributes to Maine and hopeful that you will act to protect it in this important way.

Thank you. Please be proactive and support L.D. 349.

Respectfully submitted, February 15, 2021,

*Charles and Joan Howard,*  
94 Sunset Shores Road, Sweden, Maine 04040

Joan Howard  
Sweden ME and SimsburyCT

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