

February 20, 2021

To: The Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

RE: **LD 349**– An Act to Prohibit the Use of Personal Watercraft on Keyes Pond in the Town of Sweden

Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, my name is Stacey Keefer, I am presenting this testimony in my capacity as the Director for the Maine Marine Trades Association (MMTA). MMTA represents over 120 Maine businesses and an industry comprised of boatyards, boat builders, marinas, boat dealers, marine retailers, and other service providers. According to the National Marine Manufacturer's Association, the boating industry has an approximate \$2.9 billion economic impact in Maine.

On behalf of the members of MMTA, I would like to extend concern for this bill that aims to prohibit a certain type of watercraft on Maine waters.

We understand that Maine statute allows for this type of ban, however it would be preferable to see horsepower, wake zone, noise, and/or speed limitations put into place. Unless there is a specific safety issue with personal watercraft on Keyes Pond, there is the possibility that people who operate these types of watercraft can do so within desired limitations of the residents and other pond users. Oppositely, owners of other types of motorized watercraft could potentially operate their vessels in some undesirable fashion. Our association hopes that residents and boaters can find a respectful balance. We urge the Town of Sweden to set operational ordinances rather than completely banning this specific type of watercraft on Keyes Pond.

Respectfully,
Stacey Keefer
Maine Marine Trades Association, Executive Director