

HON. DONALD G. MAREAN
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February 25, 2021

Committee of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Dear Chairman. Senator Dill and Representative Landry;
Distinguished Committee Members

LD 394 "An Act to Protect Maine's Loons and Other Wildlife"

I am writing today in support of this bill and the friendly amendment that will be proposed during the public hearing. This bill attempts to remedy an oversight in the current law by giving the IF&W Commissioner more authority when issuing permits for boat racing and or water ski and Regatta Exhibitions. Under the current permitting statue the Department has NO authority to attach wildlife protection conditions to such permits and no authority to deny any such permit application on the basis of dangers to our resident wildlife. LD 394 inclusive of the coming friendly amendment will add another tool to IF&Ws tool box and with no negative impact on recreational boating. It will add another level of protection to our wildlife, especially our loon population.

I encourage the Committee to look favorably on this legislation and vote to support the effort.

Sincerely

Hon Donald Marean