

February 25, 2021

Dear Senator Mr. Angus King:

I am writing to ask you to support LD 394, "An Act to Protect Maine's Loons and Other Wildlife in the Issuance of a Permit to Hold a Regatta, Race, or Boat or Water-ski Exhibition." As a lifetime resident of Maine and avid outdoor enthusiast, I cannot fathom a reason why we have not already ensured the protection of our treasured wildlife from state-sanctioned regattas, boat races, and water-ski exhibitions. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife must have the authority to consider the impacts on wildlife that these such events have and to use their authority to deny any such permit application.

As I am sure you are aware, wildlife is one of the state's most important natural resources and distinguishing characteristics. As beloved symbols of the natural beauty of Maine, loons, moose, lobsters, bears, and other species draw hundreds of thousands of tourists to the state annually and contribute materially to Maine's \$6.2 billion tourist industry. It is our collective responsibility to protect these majestic and beautiful creatures.

LD 394 will give IF&W the tools it needs to protect Maine's precious wildlife resources, without negatively impacting any constituent group. It will have no impact on recreational boating, except perhaps to enhance the enjoyment of Maine's resident wildlife by recreational boaters.

I ask that you support this important legislation to Protect Maine's Loons and Other Wildlife during state-sanctioned Regattas, Races, and Boat or Water-ski Exhibitions.

Much respect,

Katherine Lucas  
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