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Maine State Legislature
Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Committee

Ref: LD 394 Support

To Whom It May Concern:

Please add my support to 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

I am a home owner on Long Lake in Bridgton, Maine. I am a recreational boater and hold a "Maine Lifetime Hunting Fishing License". Additionally I have a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from the University of Idaho and worked as a Fisheries Biologist with the Florida Department of Natural Resources. I also helped run Camps Newfound-Owatonna on Long Lake (a children's summer camp) for 20 years.

I am familiar with the balancing act of trying to accommodate all forms of recreational activity to the specific needs of property owners and the requirements of fish and wildlife which inhabit a body of water. Long Lake has 2 active eagle nesting sites and dozens of loon nesting sites. In the past 6 years one of the eagle nests has failed to produce fledgling birds and there are now fewer loon chicks on the lake in the Summer. While there are several contributing factors to this reduced productivity, boat wakes and high speed boating are 2 of these factors. I had a near miss myself last year when I was cruising at 45 mph and a loon surfaced close ahead. If I had been traveling faster or been unable to maneuver due to other nearby craft....

The permit issuer for the activities outlined in LD 394 needs a greater ability to safeguard wildlife as well as the public. Please give that issuer that ability and pass LD 394.

Sincerely,

Peter G Whitchurch

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