

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee
Marine Resource Committees

Peter Bouman and Carrine Burns
91 Lower Flying Point Road
Freeport, ME 04032

11 April 2021

Dear committee members:

We are homeowners and full-time residents of Freeport. We are writing to OPPOSE LD114 (“an Act to Address Airboat Operation in the State”) establishing airboat noise limits. We are concerned that the proposed legislation will not control noise pollution.

To say that airboats are extremely loud is an understatement. We live near a small cove and can clearly hear airboats operating in another cove a mile away. When we take walks at Wolfe Neck Farm with our children, the noise is like a helicopter taking off, and for longer periods of time. It is deafening. Airboats often operate during early morning hours, interrupting an otherwise peaceful morning. Is this really what coastal Maine is all about?

As a former resident of South Florida, I am familiar with airboats. Most of the time they operate in remote parts of the Everglades, and passengers are required (with good reason) to wear hearing protection. As they come back into protected harbors near private residences, they dramatically slow down and quiet their engines. In our area, no such courtesy is extended to nearby residents.

We respect the clammers who make their living on the water. Until one individual arrived with his airboat a few years ago, we never had any problem with them. We benefit from Maine’s working waterfront. But airboat operators are not showing any respect for neighbors. We urge you to adopt land-based noise testing requirements and/or speed and hour of operation limits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Peter Bouman and Carrine Burns