

Sam Kapala
Freeport

I would like to thank the committee for taking up the important issue of airboat noise in residential and recreational areas, and register my opposition to LD114. While I support our working waterfront and I love that commercial and recreational uses coexist in our waters, I feel strongly that the use of conventional airboats results in excessive noise pollution. Because they are both extremely loud and relatively slow-moving, and because sound travels great distances over open water, a single airboat on a short journey has the potential to destroy a quiet morning for hundreds of people living near the water. They are so loud that conversations becomes difficult or impossible for minutes at a time, and they stand in a class of their own among the many, many other modes of transportation available to recreational and commercial boaters. Indeed, they are the only watercraft that have brought my three year-old son--who loves nothing more than construction sites and cool machines--to tears from the din of a craft passing by two hundred meters away. If it is possible to modify airboat fans and engines to operate at lower sound pressure levels, I would support their use as a practical method for accessing shallow waters. First, they need to be brought in line with other sources of human-generated noise in our waterways.