

Dear Committee Persons,

We are writing in reference to LD 114 - An Act to Address Airboat Operations in the State. First, we would like to thank the committee for addressing this issue on behalf of all concerned citizens. Unfortunately, the bill fails to address acceptable noise limitations. We understand the efficiency of these working airboats for emergency services by authorities and also supporting fishermen making a living working the clam flats. We wholly support the use of airboats for both purposes. Our understanding is that there are currently only a handful of airboats operating in the state with municipal boats only being used in emergency situations. However, several fishermen are also using them on a regular basis with their operating hours being heavily dictated by tides, and in many cases they are operating these boats at very early hours significantly disturbing hundreds of residents who are in proximity to their use. The proposed noise limits of 90 dB during the hours of 7:00 am to 7:00 pm and 76 dB during other hours unfortunately in no way addresses those hundreds of affected residents in that 90 dB during the day is still extremely loud and approaching dangerous levels of prolonged exposure, and 76 dB at night significantly exceeds current after-hours noise ordinances on the books.

As only one of the many property owners who have been significantly impacted by airboat operations at all hours the day and night the past two summers, we can attest to the fact that the volume levels regularly generated by these boats are so loud that they prohibit a normal conversation or a telephone conversation, let alone permit sleep during very early morning hours. Unlike airplanes which pass quickly and can briefly create high levels of noise, airboats create high levels of noise for a prolonged period of up to 20 minutes or so further creating dangerous levels of noise exposure to the hundreds of affected property owners as well as native wildlife. While we support fishermen being able to work the waterfront and make a living, the disturbance caused by the noise from their airboats has negatively impacted hundreds of other people which has also prevented them from being able to go to work and making a living due to interruption of their sleep in the very early hours. Clearly there needs to be a balance between both interests in any law that is enacted. A test utilizing several municipal airboats was conducted this past winter which demonstrated that airboats can indeed be operated at more acceptable noise levels. We are simply requesting that the results of that test are utilized in crafting any law balancing the needs of airboat operators and the right of quiet enjoyment by property owners.

We are attaching a log of recorded dB levels that we've personally experienced as evidence of this problem and are asking the Committee to please re-consider the noise levels permitted in this bill as it will do virtually nothing to address the issue affecting property owners. Please see below the log we created to document the magnitude of noise problem last summer.

Again, we appreciate your consideration of this matter and trust that as our elected representatives, a balance can be achieved for both interests.

Respectfully,

Greg and Deborah Link
4 Dixon Road
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Airboat Decibel Tracking

Observer's Name: Greg Link

Contact Information

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Date	Time	Boat (old or new) if known	Location of Observer	Estimated Distance from the boat	Maximum dB Observed
7/31/20	5:37 PM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 mile	105
8/1/20	1:48 PM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 mile	94
8/4/20	9:45 AM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 mile	100
8/7/20	11:21 AM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 mile	102
8/11/20	11:50 PM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 mile	113
8/13/20	10:41 AM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 mile	94
8/14/20	3:53 PM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 mile	105
8/15/20	4:39 PM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 mile	100
9/7/20	12:50 PM	Old	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1.5 miles	107
9/10/20	1:16 PM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1.25 miles	106
9/12/20	3:00 PM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 miles	107
9/14/20	1:08 PM	Old	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 miles	108
9/14/20	1:16 PM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 miles	89
9/15/20	1:56 AM	Old	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 miles	104
9/15/20	2:29 PM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 miles	96
9/15/20	3:57 AM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 miles	94
9/15/20	3:59 AM	Old	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 miles	91
9/19/20	9:45 AM	New	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 miles	95
9/21/20	10:47 AM	Old	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 miles	93
9/23/20	12:45 PM	Old	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 miles	93
9/24/20	1:05 PM	Old	Harraseeket River - Boathouse next door to Harraseeket Yacht Club	1/2 miles	97

Also please see <https://www.maineoceannoise.org/technical-bulletin-on-noise>