

Claire Martin
Freeport

April 4, 2021
Commissioner Judy A. Camuso
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
41 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0041
Commissioner Patrick Keliher
Maine Department of Marine Resources
32 Blossom Ln
Augusta, ME 04330-5780
Dear Commissioners,

My name is Claire Martin and my family lives in Freeport in a small waterfront cottage that was built in 1939 and is located approximately 20 feet off high tide water line. We purchased this property perched on a protected wildlife habitat of intercoastal waterways and mudflats because of its serenity, quietness, it's views of the unique and rare wildlife and fauna that resides directly in front of the home. We regularly experience Maine's working waterfront activities directly in front of our home. The only activity on the waterfront that has become disruptive and harmful to our environment is the extremely loud and invasive to all life is the airboat and its damaging noise pollution to residents, vacationers and the protected wildlife area of Maquoit Bay.

The issue of noise pollution should not become a battle of the harvesters and their airboats versus the rest of Maine residents rather both should work together to come up with a solution to prevent and restrict upping noise limits on the coastline in Maine everytime a louder new ride comes along. Our family enjoys watching the working waterfront comings and goings. My grandchildren enjoy watching the trollers, ferries, kayakers, boaters, and working lobster boats passing by as much as sighting seals, schools of fish, unique species of all types of wildlife. All of these activities make noise within the reasonable limits that have already been established in Maine. Why are we even considering upping invasive noise pollution? What will happen when vacationers decide to buy their own airboats and the coastline and our lakes become popular for recreational airboats?

All watercraft other than airboats are already subject to statewide noise rules. The legislature itself recognized airboats are a unique class of watercraft when it chose to exempt them from existing noise rules last year. Obviously there has been a lot of push back from residents with good reason. We are having our lives impacted significantly at all hours of the night and day. Imagine being woken at 4:00 am to the sound of a chipper or a leaf blower or a helicopter being operated 20 feet away from an open window? This is what we experience. It is not remotely okay for this to be occurring. It should not even be considered.

Instead we should be putting a plan together to help harvesters to adjust their new airboats to the current noise pollution statewide noise rules. One of the harvesters has already proved that this can be done. He should become the State expert and help other harvesters to modify their airboats. We should find out exactly how much each harvester will need to make these modifications to their airboats. The State of Maine should start a fund with donations and other funding sources to assist the harvesters financially. Going forward it should be known to purchasers of airboats they will be responsible to follow current watercraft noise regulations and should not be purchasing watercraft that are unable to operate at a safe noise level.

We know now that airboats are negatively impacting thousands of residents and vacationers, and disturbing our wildlife habits daily. No further comprehensive noise studies are needed to explore setting noise limits on airboats louder than what applies to other boats. To think that a study is needed to show the intrusive and dangerous noise levels that airboats emit ignores common sense, the ample academic literature, the widespread legal precedent, and the hundreds of disgruntled residents who support noise limits in public spaces have already provided ample data to the study committee. The fact that the State of Maine already has established limits for acceptable noise for all other types of watercraft have proven that the airboat is too loud.

We appreciate all that the State of Maine is doing to 'keep life the way it should be' for all of its residents. We understand that we all have to share our precious ocean resources and

protect our environment more now than ever with overfishing, environmental pollution and climate change.

Please, please protect our Maine coastline from the devastating impact of harmful levels of noise for the sake of all of our people, wildlife and the ecological balance of these pristine marine environments. It seems that all we need to do, is help harvesters make their new too loud airboats ,comply with fair and reasonable already established noise regulations.

Very concerned,

Claire and Jay Martin

Cc: Rep. Sachs, Rep. McCreight, Sen Daughtry, Dep Commissioner Peabody