

11 April 2021

TO: Joint Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
RE: LD 89, An Act To Regulate Airboats

My name is Ken Ross. I rent a cottage on Cobscook Bay and live in Robbinston, on Passamaquoddy Bay. I have lived on these shores for 83 years and spent a lot of time around the shore. I ask you to vote **“ought to pass”** on **LD 89**.

After listening to the YouTube video of the airboat in Freeport, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oE1X1oXVhKQ>) it is obvious why coastal residents are distressed. It is also known that birds are flushed at the sound of an airboat much more easily than by a regular boat driven by an outboard.

Renters stay at my cottage on Cobscook Bay for several weeks a summer. My guests, who come for a quiet appreciation of nature on the shore and in my woods, would be appalled to have such a vessel regularly pass by. Quite likely they would find a nicer place to vacation.

LD 89 compromises on decibel levels created by airboats and therefore could satisfy residents and airboat operators while the issues are studied further. LD 89 also promises that wildlife issues will be taken into account in the future, and this should be a no brainer for the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. We all share these waters and this environment with wildlife, which is crucial for the quality of life on the Maine coast. Please vote “ought to pass” on LD 89. Thank you.