

My name is Heinrich Wurm, and writing in favor of LD 1663 - An Act to Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters. I am a retired physician living in Lovell, Maine seasonally since 1980 and full-time since 2014.

I am head of the Lovell Planning Board and a member of the Kezar Lake Watershed Association's Board and deeply involved in water quality and the health of our watershed.

A comprehensive and well organized boating safety course is a timely initiative that serves several important concerns ranging from personal safety, including the safety of passengers, water skiers and tube users to the safety of kayakers, stand-up paddlers and fellow boaters.

It should also include raising awareness and respect for wildlife and the environment by restricting boat access to shallow coves, near nesting water fowl and close to shore where docked boats and swimmers may be impacted. Awareness of wake damage to shoreline structures man made and natural is a serious concern that has become more prominent with the arrival of more powerful watercraft creating artificial wakes of previous unseen dimensions.

Finally, and most important from an economic and tourist industry point of view, is the need to raise awareness of the transfer of invasive aquatic plants attached to boats and boat trailers.

I strongly support passing LD 1663 as it will enhance safety and sustainability of our watersheds.

Heinrich Wurm, MD

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