

Re: Support for LD 693: "An Act to Protect Inland Water Quality, Shorelines, Wildlife and Public Safety by Prohibiting Operation of a Wake Boat to Create an Enhanced Wake Close to Shore or in Shallow Water "

Dear Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry, and Distinguished Members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife,

My husband and I are the third generation of our family to own beautiful lakeside property on Androscoggin Lake in Wayne, Maine. The lake is already on Maine's list of endangered lakes, and in the last two years, we have been faced with invasive variable-leaf milfoil and two algal blooms.

And now it seems we are facing another threat in the form of wake boats when used for wakesports. We are concerned for three key reasons:

- 1) The harm from large waves near the shore. We are particularly proud of our loon raft where loons have been nesting and producing chicks since 1981. One reason we built the raft is because Androscoggin's lake level varies. When the water level goes down, loons sometimes cannot return to their nests. Hence the floating nests. Large waves could swamp, damage or be very disruptive to those nests. Worse, they could push a temporarily unattended egg into the water.
- 2) Sediment stirred up from the bottom, leading to more phosphorus in the water, and potentially more and longer-lasting algae blooms. While Androscoggin Lake is a big lake—5 miles from end-to-end—it is also a shallow lake, averaging 12 feet deep with only a few areas below 20 feet, the recommended depth for wakesports.
- 3) Increased potential for spread of invasive plants. We're already coping with one infestation. The plants are fragile and break easily. Water from one lake can enter ballast tanks and exist in another, risking the transfer of plant fragments, or simply spreading them around the lake where they re-root themselves quickly.

Without the limits LD 693 places on wake boating, we fear our lake will face much more harm and make the actions everyone is taking now to address the algae blooms and contain the spread of milfoil so much more difficult.

We feel we are fighting for the very existence of our lake. Wake boats, if not regulated, will make our fight so much more difficult. Please help us in our efforts to save our lake by voting "ought to pass" on LD 693.

Thank you,

Janet and Victor Bernhards
46 West Acres Road
Wayne, Maine

Not used:

We feel certain that through the efforts of everyone involved with finding and removing the variable milfoil we have restricted its growth to the cove and believe it has not spread throughout the lake. That could change quickly with the destructive wakes these boats make,

The town of Wayne, along with several local environmental organizations have taken aggressive steps to combat both of these problems but, as I'm sure you know, addressing these issues will most likely take years to correct.