

Diana McLaughlin  
Wayne  
LD 693

March 22, 2023

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 name is Diana McLaughlin. My husband and I are year-round residents of Wayne and have enjoyed swimming and kayaking on Lovejoy Pond for over 37 years. Lovejoy is 379 acres in size and has a maximum depth of 22 feet. It has shoreline in the towns of Wayne, Fayette and Readfield. In most years, one to two pairs of loons nest on the pond. A small park owned by the Town of Wayne, located at the southernmost end of Lovejoy, enables residents of Wayne, Fayette and Readfield to enjoy access to this beautiful pond.

I strongly support prohibiting wake boats on lakes and ponds like Lovejoy. It is impossible to operate a large motorized boat such as a wake boat on Lovejoy without creating destructive waves that erode the shoreline, threaten wildlife and endanger people recreating on the pond. The deepest point on the pond is only 22 feet and the average depth is about seven feet. There are very few locations on the pond that are as far as 500 feet from the shore.

About ten years ago, a sports camp for children operated a large waterski boat with a 150 hp motor (at least) on our pond for two summers with devastating effects to the aquatic plant life, wildlife, shoreline and the quality of life of local residents. The "ski boat", though not as large as some wake boats, was inappropriate and destructive to a small pond. A wake boat would only be worse.

I sit on the Boards of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association and the Lovejoy Pond Improvement Association. I am very concerned about this issue and hope the legislature will take this important action to protect Maine's thousands of small lakes and ponds.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 693.

Diana McLaughlin