



Testimony In Support of LD 693: An Act To Protect Inland Water Quality, Shorelines, Wildlife and Public Safety By Prohibiting Operation of a Wakeboat to Create an Enhanced Wake Close to Shore or In Shallow Water

Submitted by 7 Lakes Alliance, Belgrade Lakes to the

Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

March 22, 2023

Dear distinguished members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

7 Lakes Alliance, a non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve the waters and lands of the Belgrade Lakes region, urges the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to support **LD 693: An Act to Protect Inland Water Quality, Shorelines, Wildlife and Public Safety By Prohibiting Operation of a Wakeboat to Create an Enhanced Wake Close to Shore or In Shallow Water.**

7 Lakes works to protect and restore lakes through water quality monitoring and analysis in collaboration with Colby College, invasive aquatic plant remediation and prevention, public education and erosion control partnerships with landowners through the Youth Conservation Corps, LakeSmart, and Clean Water Act Section 319 program. We dedicate significant resources, working collaboratively with many public and private partners, to protect the waters of a 180-square mile watershed in Central Maine. We focus on preventing the erosion of soils which can carry phosphorus into lakes and contribute significantly to harmful and costly algal blooms.

We urge the committee to **vote ought to pass on LD 693.** All boat wakes can cause shoreline erosion, depositing more sediment and phosphorus into our lakes and leading to algal blooms. But the enhanced wakes produced by boats specially designed for this purpose create waves that require more distance for the wave energy to dissipate. The 500-foot exclusion zone is supported by independent scientific research and is expected to mitigate the shoreline impacts from wakeboats. In contrast, the current 200-foot exclusion zone will not mitigate these impacts. 7 Lakes supports science-based lake management actions that protect our lakes and prevent further degradation of these already fragile ecosystems and the many values they provide to people and wildlife. We also encourage additional study to ensure the effectiveness of measures implemented pursuant to this effort to protect Maine's lakes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Rose Day
President & CEO
7 Lakes Alliance

