

March 21, 2023

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Dear members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee,

My name is Jeff Stern and I live year-round in the Woods Pond Watershed (off the lake) in Bridgton. In addition, my family has owned a camp on the shore of Woods Pond since 1977. I am a board member on the Woods Pond Association.

I am asking for your support today for LD 693, a bill that would prohibit large wake generating boats from within 500' of shore and in water less than 20' deep.

As an environmental consultant, I have worked on many lake watershed surveys and erosion control projects. I am concerned that large wakes close to shore will increase shoreline erosion, and also pose a safety risk to swimmers, especially young children.

I support LD 693 as a common-sense solution that will keep large-wake-generating boats on the water but direct them to places where they can operate safely.

Please vote to support LD 693 as a smart way to assure safe boating opportunities for everyone on our publicly owned Great Ponds.

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

Signed,

Jeff Stern