

Sal Girifalco
Norway
LD 173

Testimony in opposition to LD 173.

My name is Sal Girifalco, President of the Lakes Association of Norway (LAON) whose mission is to preserve the health of Norway's four lakes. When I was first elected President in 2014, I was not that familiar with the many threats to Maine Lake. Heck, I thought that they had been here forever, so they should do just fine. Well, I soon learned that my narrow attitude based on very limited knowledge was very wrong. We have had to face several critical threats, from stopping invasive species at our boat launches to dealing with toxic cyanobacteria connected to erosion. Local associations cannot guard lakes on their own. We need state resources such as expertise, technical support, law enforcement, and financial support. This bill will reduce registration revenues that support our lakes and will impact revenue from the Lake and River protection sticker that is purchased with registration. This bill does not serve Maine, or its boaters. Every watercraft, regardless of engine size, benefits from healthy lakes, but unfortunately every watercraft presents a potential threat to our lakes both by being able to transport invasive species (most instances of an invasive plant found on a boat about to launch in Maine were on boats that last visited a Maine lake – boats that visit Maine Lakes are the biggest threat to Maine lakes), and by shoreline erosion caused by wake. Those who enjoy our lakes need to continue to support their protection.

Thank you,
Sal Girifalco