

February 9, 2025

FROM: Sue Heard, Seasonal Property Owner in Wayne  
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TO: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee  
RE : **LD 173: An Act to Exempt Certain Watercraft from Registration Requirements**

I am writing in opposition to LD173. My family and I are third generation property owners on Pocasset Lake and summer residents. The rest of the year we reside in Nashua, NH.

If you allow canoes, kayaks and rowboats that are equipped with a motor having a manufacturer's rating of less than **100 horsepower** to be exempt from boat registration, you are increasing the threat to quality of our lakes, ponds, rivers. Without registration you lose revenue that supports important lake protection programs at IFW that protect our watersheds. Not to mention the loss of revenue that's provided by the Coast Guard for every registered boat. This loss of revenue would have a serious impact on the department's capacity for lake protection work.

Exempting individual boaters who are not part of an organized group would make it easy for them to skip the purchase of a Lake and River Protection Sticker. Once again this would result in decreased revenue that funds important invasive species reduction work, including Courtesy Boat Inspection programs and invasive removal work. These programs are critical for minimizing the risk of invasive species being spread to non-infected lakes, rivers, and ponds in our state.

When voting on LD173, I ask that you think about the economic impact it will have on the state of Maine if property owners, vacationers, and residents move elsewhere because their beloved lake, pond, or river can no longer be protected and enjoyed for generations to come. In the end, the department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the State of Maine will suffer. Please vote NO on LD173. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Sue Heard