

Doug Kavanaugh  
Maine Lakes  
LD 173

Chair Baldacci, Chair Roberts, and distinguished members of the Inland, Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I strongly oppose LD 173, An Act to Exempt Certain Watercraft from the Boat Registration Requirement. I am a Board member of Maine Lakes as well as the Greater Pushaw Lake Association. I chair our LakeSmart Committee. I am certified in invasive plant certification by Lake Stewards of Maine. This past year I participated in the Courtesy Boat Inspection Program at Gould's Landing.

I very much enjoyed being exposed to a cross-section of our boating public. They overwhelmingly support the battle against invasive plants. They clearly understand that we are striving to protect their lake for their enjoyment. For them and generations to come. They proudly endorse and support the lake protection efforts funded by their purchase of the Lake and River Protection Sticker which comes as part of the boat registration process. Exempting owners of small boats with motors less than 100 h.p. would deny them the opportunity to contribute to preserving the lake they so much enjoy. Perhaps we should extend this opportunity to owners of every watercraft in Maine; but that is a different question. I personally think that owners of non-powered craft would welcome the opportunity to buy a sticker. In the meantime, how do we easily divide who gets to have a sticker and who doesn't. We already know. If it has a motor one must register it and those fortunate people can participate in the preservation of our lakes and rivers. Would that every boat owner could be so lucky.