

David McDermott
Dover-Foxcroft
LD 173

Members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee:

I write in opposition to the proposed changes outlined in LD 173 that would exempt motorized watercraft with less than 100 HP from requirements for registration.

The fees collected through these registrations are vital to fund ongoing efforts to preserve our lakes and great ponds and to mitigate the damages some have sustained through invasive species. The process of registration is also a touch-point to remind boat owners of the serious nature of invasive species and the role that each of us play in preventing their spread to any additional bodies of water in the State.

Motorized craft also have more nooks and crannies on them in which pieces of invasive plants can hide--increasing their risk for sharing those with the next body of water in which they are placed. A non-motorized smooth-hulled kayak is much less likely to carry residual plant species than one with a motor rack and lower unit immersed in weeds in their last pond--that might not be seen by the boat owner.

Thank you for your work to help preserve and protect the beloved waters of our great State!