

Annie Moran
Wayne
LD 173

February 11, 2025

FROM: Annie and Tom Moran, full time residents and property owners in Wayne,
ME

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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 has vacationed and later became full time residents for decades. My husband and i were fortunate enough to purchase our home in Wayne in 2017 and became full time residents in 2019.

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,
Annie and Tom Moran