

Letter of OPPOSITION to LD 173 An Act to Exempt Certain Watercraft from  
Registration  
Requirements Submitted to Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee February 10,  
2025

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Dear Chair Baldacci, Chair Roberts, and Distinguished Members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Committee [Recipient's Name]

I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 173 An Act to Exempt Certain Watercraft from  
Registration Requirements that seeks to remove the requirement for boat registration for boats with less  
than 100 horsepower (HP). As a concerned resident, avid boater and fisherman, I believe that this  
proposal poses significant risks to our community, our environment, and the overall safety of our  
waterways. As an active boater and fisherman, preserving our lakes and waterways for all to use today  
and in the future is essential to the "Way Life should Be".

First and foremost, boat registration serves as a critical tool for ensuring the safety and accountability of  
all boat operators. By requiring registration, authorities can easily track and identify boats, which is  
essential in case of accidents, theft, or violations of boating laws. Removing the need for registration for  
boats with less than 100 HP would create a loophole that could be exploited by irresponsible or reckless  
operators, leading to an increase in unregistered and untraceable boats on our waters. Registration is  
also a mechanism to insure that all operators are informed regarding the latest regulations for safe  
boating in Maine.

Furthermore, boat registration fees contribute to the maintenance and improvement of our state's  
boating infrastructure. These funds are used to maintain boat ramps, docks, and other facilities that are  
vital for the enjoyment and safety of all boaters. Without this source of revenue, the quality of our  
boating infrastructure could decline, negatively impacting recreational boating and water activities.

In addition to safety and infrastructure concerns, boat registration also plays a crucial role in  
environmental protection. Registered boats are subject to regulations and inspections that help prevent  
the spread of invasive species, pollution, and other environmental hazards. The registration process is a  
simple mechanism to ensure all boats have the required Lake and River Protection sticker. By exempting  
boats with less than 100 HP from registration, we risk undermining these important safeguards and  
endangering the health of our irreplaceable waterways and marine ecosystems.

Lastly, I believe that the proposed legislation would create confusion and inconsistency in the  
enforcement of boating laws. Law enforcement officers would face additional challenges in  
distinguishing between registered and unregistered boats, complicating their efforts to ensure  
compliance with safety and environmental regulations.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote **NO** on this proposed legislation and to maintain the requirement for  
boat registration for all boats, regardless of horsepower. The benefits of registration far outweigh any  
perceived convenience of eliminating it for smaller boats. Let us prioritize the safety, environmental

health, and overall well-being of our valuable lakes and boating community by upholding this essential regulation.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue. I hope that you will take the necessary steps to protect our waterways and ensure the continued enjoyment of our exceptional lakes and waterways for all residents of Maine.

Sincerely,

Peter Tilkemeier  
91 Pine Drive  
Otisfield, ME 04270