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LD 173

We OPPOSE LD 173. This bill exempts canoes, kayaks, and rowboats with up to 100 HP motors from boat registration requirements. While initially this may seem like a benign exemption, we have grave concerns about the potential impacts on Maine's lakes. In our humble opinions our state needs all the revenue it can get for lake protection and a clear definition of rowboats is necessary. Our 14-foot Corson runabout if equipped with oar locks and sporting a 50hp Mercury, certainly would still make our waterskiing granddaughter happy. Our newly acquired 17-foot tri-hull with 70 hp Honda could also sport oar locks Well, you get the idea. The added oarlocks could exempt from registration fees these types of set-ups across the 6,000 Maine lakes. Subjective interpretation adds up to a lot of revenue loss the state can ill afford!

Loss of revenue that supports important lake protection work and programs is wrong for Maine. The Department would not only lose registration fees but also additional revenue from the Coast Guard that comes with every registered boat.

Loss of revenue from the Lake and River Protection Sticker program is another concern. We understand the registration exemption would still require boat owners to purchase a Lake and River Protection Sticker. However, there will be no incentive or intuitive avenue for that to happen. Exempting individual boaters who are not part of an organized group leaves them very likely to skip the purchase of a Sticker, resulting in decreased revenue for the vital invasive species work of both the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Environmental Protection. Please OPPOSE LD 173. This bill is wrong just as a kayak with a 100hp engine mounted on it is wrong. Thank you. Kimberly and David Hallee