

February 8, 2025

FROM: Sue Heard, Seasonal Property Owner in Wayne
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TO: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee
RE : **LD 171: An Act Regarding Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations**

I am writing in support of LD171. My family and I are third generation property owners on Pocasset Lake and summer residents. The rest of the year we reside in Nashua, NH.

The Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife must recommend more stringent watercraft inspection protocols on inland waters of the State known to be infested with invasive aquatic plants. They must review surface use restrictions and practice due diligence in clearly notifying the public of those restrictions.

More of our precious water bodies must not fall victim to Eurasian Milfoil, algal blooms, or other invasive plant species. It's already happening in our neighboring Androscoggin Lake and many other lakes across the state. The time is here today, not tomorrow. Before it's too late, we must act, or we lose the quality of our watersheds forever.

When voting on LD 171, I ask that you think about the economic impact it will have on the state of Maine if property owners, vacationers, and residents decide to move elsewhere because their beloved lake, pond, or river can no longer be protected from the spread of invasive aquatic species. Your departments and the State of Maine will suffer. Please support LD171 to protect our watersheds and ensure the state's economic well-being for the future. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by,
Sue Heard