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**To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**  
**Regarding L.D. 171, “An Act to Enhance Protections Regarding Invasive Aquatic Plant**  
**Infestations in Inland Waters of the State”.**

February 12, 2025

Sen. Baldacci, Rep. Roberts, and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony before you today. I’m Penny Morrell, taxpayer and citizen of the Town of Belgrade, Maine.

I neither support nor oppose L.D. 171, “An Act to Enhance Protections Regarding Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations in Inland Waters of the State”.

I live on Belgrade Stream and have for over 50 years in a cozy log cabin. Milfoil has always been a problem, but it is worse now than ever before. My neighbor, across the Stream from me, came to get me with his party barge. It would have been quicker for me to paddle my kayak to him because of his motor getting entangled with the weeds.

We have been inspecting boats for years now. I can’t even remember when we started doing it. Anyway, it hasn’t helped with slowing or stopping the problem of invasive plants. There are other ways that the problem expands such as ducks and geese, tame and wild, and currents in the water. Wouldn’t it be a good idea to delegate an impartial, bipartisan legislative committee to seek information from other states who have had success with this problem? Perhaps even drain our waterways, kill everything, and replace the water, fish, and animals. I don’t believe boat inspection is the answer.

I urge this committee to find a workable solution to the problem of invasive aquatic plant infestations in Maine’s inland waterways. Thank you.