

April 28, 2025

Chair Baldacci, Chair Roberts, and distinguished members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee:

My name is Thomas Arminio. I am on the Board of Directors of the 30 Miler River Watershed Association and president of the Greater Minnehonk Lake Association. The organizations I belong to, as a volunteer, are dedicated to promoting, protecting, and enhancing the quality of lake water and the habitat of Maine's lakes for everyone.

I am writing to you to express my support of LD 1763. LD 1763 will protect lake health by prohibiting non-water-dependent floating structures (NWFS) on inland and coastal waters.

LD 1763 seeks to remedy the growing problem of NWFS in Maine's waters. I would like the committee to consider the potential risks and impacts to lake ecology and to fish and wildlife habitat posed if the number of NWFS on Maine's lakes grows:

- NWFS moored in shallow waters may damage fragile littoral aquatic habitats, altering fish habitat by shading out plant growth that is essential for feeding and reproduction.
- Sewage and human waste, as well as greywater, pose a risk to public health, water quality, and wildlife. Assuring *houseboats* meet standards for waste management is an essential piece of LD 1763.
- A uniform state regulation will lessen the burden on towns and a potential piece-meal approach that is confusing, while also providing equitable lake protection across the state.

LD 1763 is the result of years of hard work by legislative staff, agency staff, working group members, and bill sponsors. I urge you to support this important bill.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Arminio
President, Greater Minnehonk Lake Association