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LD 1763

Dear Senator Baldacci & Representative Roberts

We kindly request your support for legislation banning the presence of floating camps on the lakes in Maine. As summer residents deeply invested in the welfare of our cherished lake, we have significant concerns that permitting floating camps will have adverse consequences that will diminish the attractiveness of this vital economic and aesthetic asset.

Floating camps are unlikely to foster the mindset of conservation that numerous camp owners exhibit toward their lakeside properties. The necessity to dump grey water into the lake or, worse, sewage, is a concern if the owner of a floating camp can simply up anchor and relocate. Currently, lake associations focus on persuading their constituent owners to undertake the challenging task of removing old septic fields from the lake environments. It is difficult to envision these associations wielding any influence over floating camp owners. These associations are citizen organizations primarily dedicated to the protection and preservation of Maine Lakes.

Regarding property values, owners of floating camps are more inclined to seek out attractive anchorages to enjoy their time on a lake. Onshore property owners have similarly chosen their locations and we foresee this becoming a source of conflict between the two groups. It is hard to fathom a process to resolve this potential conflict, with camp owners paying real estate taxes for their properties, while owners of floating camps might not contribute to municipal services they utilize.

Lastly, Maine lakes are intended for the public's enjoyment, protection, and preservation, for both current and future generations. It seems inequitable for a floating camp owner to deny public access to any part of the lake simply because their floating house is anchored there. The lakes already face significant challenges, including threats from invasive aquatic plants and animal species, and runoff affecting water quality. Allowing floating camps would merely add another complicated factor to an already fragile lake environment.

We hope that you will do the right thing and vote in favor of a ban on all floating camps in all of Maine lakes.