

Emily Poland
Dover Foxcroft
LD 1763

Dear Sen. Baldacci, Rep. Roberts, and IFWC Members:

I am writing to voice my support for LD 1763, legislation to ban Floating Camps on Maine lakes. Here is why I believe these structures should be banned:

Sewage, human waste, and greywater pose a risk to public health, water quality, and wildlife. The risks posed by NWFS either leaking sewage (with substandard plumbing) or discharging directly into lakes are high and are not acceptable on our publicly owned Great Ponds. Assuring houseboats meet standards for waste management is an important piece of LD 1763.

Access to our public waterways is an essential right. While one or two NWFS on a lake may not feel like a big deal, without statewide regulation the scale and range of NWFS will continue to grow. More NWFS create the potential for growing conflicts over access, as well as further degradations to lake water quality and potential negative impacts to our vital outdoor industries.

Stress and tension have grown among towns as some towns have created ordinances prohibiting NWFS, resulting in shifts of NWFS to parts of lakes in neighboring towns. A uniform state regulation will lessen the regulatory burden on towns and eliminate a piece-meal approach that is confusing, while also providing equitable lake protection and access across the state.

Respectfully submitted

Emily Poland
Dover-Foxcroft Resident