

William and Gretchen Reynolds
Willimantic, Maine
LD 1763

To: Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
132nd Maine State Legislature

From: William and Gretchen Reynolds
globalbussys@aol.com
465 Tim's Cove Road,
Williamamantic, Maine 04443

RE: Testimony in support of LD 1763: "An act to Regulate Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters"

Date: April 26, 2025

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and distinguished members of the Committee:

We are writing to you to express our full support for LD 1763, Legislation to ban Floating Camps on Maine lakes. The following are the reasons we strongly believe these Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures (NWFS), (Floating Camps) should be banned.

Our major concern, being a lake front homeowner, is that sewage, human waste, and greywater will create a risk for public health, water quality, and wildlife. We believe that leaking sewage (with substandard plumbing) and discharging directly into the lakes will be very high and not acceptable on our publicly owned Great Ponds. We would prefer that these Floating Camps are not allowed on the lakes at all. The LD 1763 legislation should ban the bathroom facilities and greywater disposal on our Great Ponds. With our experience as owners and chartering a sportfishing vessel, we would like to express to you that a Great Pond is very different than the Ocean that can cleanse itself with daily tidal flows, whereas Great Pond has gently flowing freshwater that can easily be polluted. The Ocean has salt water that can breakdown pollutants and bottom dwellers that clean the bottom Ocean floor, whereas the fresh water does not have the capability to recover.

Another concern we have is that we must protect shallow, near-shore habitats that are essential for Maine's fish and other aquatic life. This littoral habitat provides feeding and breeding areas as well as cover and shelter. These floating camps moored in shallow waters, potentially in front of my home and blocking my view of my beautiful pristine lake may damage these fragile aquatic habitats, altering fish habitat by shading out plant growth that is essential for feeding and reproduction. They may also change water temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels, impacting fish and other aquatic life. Also, it has been our experience that these Owners of Floating Camps, will most likely feel comfortable enough to perform maintenance activities on their Floating Camp, thereby adding to the potential for polluting our lakes and destroying the fishery and our precious loons, and bald and golden eagles' habitat (food source). In addition, another concern is that these Floating Camps, will continue to grow in numbers and overwhelm the residence boating and fishing enthusiasts by creating potential conflicts between Floating Camp Owners and boaters and fisherman as well as lakefront homeowners. As a lakefront Homeowner, we are required to leave our first 100 ft. in pristine conditions. So why wouldn't we want the lake in front of our property to be protected as well. Floating Camps would also cause conflicts between lakefront Homeowners docks, and swimming areas for children, adults and dogs (retrievers), including wildlife like moose and deer.

At any rate, we feel there must be uniform statewide regulations and enforcement to eliminate Floating Camps to lessen the regulatory burden on our towns. This would eliminate any confusion and provide equitable lake protection.

The State has regulations for stormwater runoff (acid rain), hazards of building materials, sewage, garbage, oil, grease, paints, etc.

We feel these Floating Camps should be eliminated because many residents with waterfront property are finding that Floating Camps are unsightly and nuisance, blocking their views of the water, and potentially impacting property value. Increase congestion will also be an issue. Floating Camps that attract guests and entertain parties that can create congestion at public docks and boats and parking on private roads or private property. This will make it difficult for other boaters and residents to have access.

In conclusion, the reasons for banning Floating Camps revolve around environmental protection, preserving the aesthetic and recreational value of our lakes and ensuring fair access for all users.

Thank you for your consideration,

William and Gretchen Reynolds