



30 Mile River Watershed Association
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RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **LD 1763**

An Act to Regulate Non-Water Dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters

April 30, 2025

Dear Chair Baldacci, Chair Roberts, and Distinguished Members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Lidie Robbins and I am the Executive Director of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association, based in Mt. Vernon. This watershed encompasses over 25 water bodies in Central Maine. Our organization is a coalition of seven towns, nine lake associations, and two conservation organizations. Our mission is to work as a community for clean and healthy lakes, ponds, and streams in our watershed.

30 Mile strongly supports LD 1763.

Equitable access to our public waters is a fundamental right for all Mainers and visitors.

While a single non-water-dependent floating structure (NWFS) on a lake might not seem problematic, the reality is that without statewide standards, we are witnessing the growing spread and impact of these structures. Unregulated, they pose a significant threat to public access, environmental health, and Maine's outdoor recreation economy.

The environmental risks are real and growing. Across the state, we have heard alarming stories—like a lake where a floating structure was rented out overnight without a bathroom, with tenants told to simply use the lake as a toilet. This is exactly the kind of situation that threatens the healthy waters we work so hard to protect. It's not just an eyesore; it's a direct threat to water quality, wildlife, and the long-term health of our lakes.

The current, piecemeal approach to regulating NWFS is untenable. Towns are being left to fend for themselves, leading to confusing and inconsistent management. Some towns have taken action to prohibit these structures, but without consistent state oversight, NWFS simply migrate to parts of lakes governed by neighboring towns, shifting—not solving—the problem. Unlike land-based boundaries, town lines across water are invisible and unenforceable. A uniform, statewide policy will relieve towns of this burden and create clarity for everyone.

LD 1763 provides for additional rulemaking to address future nuances. We appreciate that the bill includes a provision allowing for exceptions and clarifications through a public, transparent process. This thoughtful approach acknowledges the complexity of regulating NWFS while ensuring that Maine's waters are protected now and into the future.

On behalf of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association, I urge you to support LD 1763 to ensure that our lakes remain clean, accessible, and treasured for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Lidie Robbins
Executive Director
30 Mile River Watershed Association