



Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, my name is Jeff Romano testifying on behalf of Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) in support of LD 1763.

LD 1763 builds on work done in recent years to address the growing issue of floating camps on Maine waters. Due to loopholes in the current law, these non-water dependent structures have been largely unregulated, avoiding land-based laws such as Shoreland Zoning designed to protect the state's water resources.

LD 1763 correctly identifies those uses that should be exempt from new regulations, including aquaculture, ice fishing shacks, and water toys. At the same time, the bill properly targets those structures appearing on our lakes, ponds, bays, and coves that are not functionally dependent on water for their use, by prohibiting them from the state inland and coastal waters.

MCHT encourages the committee to vote in favor of LD 1763.

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*Maine Coast Heritage Trust seeks to advance the conservation of lands and waters in Maine to ensure ecological wellbeing and foster thriving communities. Over the past five decades, we have conserved more than 185,000 acres, including over 160 places open for traditional outdoor recreation.*