



Maine Professional Guides Association

55 Morrison Hill Road
Wilton, ME 04294

www.maineguides.org

Testimony in Opposition to LD 1319
An Act to Exempt Certain Boat Operators from Having to Become Maine Guides
May 1, 2023

Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry, and members of the committee, my name is James Cote and I am here on behalf of the Maine Professional Guides Association in opposition to LD 1319.

The Maine Professional Guides Association represents approximately 1,000 licensed guides in Maine who lead guests on outdoor adventures ranging from paddle board yoga to bear hunting. As we have in the past, we would like to express concern that the profession of guiding is weakened every time the Legislature opts to carve out certain types activities. A good example of this was a recent carve out for educational trip leaders.

“Guide”, in Title 12 of the Maine Revised Statutes, means **a person who receives any form of remuneration for that person's services in accompanying or assisting a person** in the fields or forests or on the **waters** or ice within the jurisdiction of the State while hunting, fishing, trapping, **boating**, snowmobiling, using an all-terrain vehicle or camping at a primitive camping area.

We believe that this statutory definition was crafted with intention to ensure safe and enjoyable outdoor adventures for residents and visitors here in Maine.

Having said that, the Maine Professional Guides Association also understands that there may sometimes be circumstances in today's world that require thoughtful adjustment and accommodation. If the Legislature decides to pursue an accommodation of this sort we would ask for the opportunity to work with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to ensure that such an accommodation is:

- 1) as limited in scope as possible;
- 2) provides maximum protection to guests, and;
- 3) avoids competing with market opportunities for licensed guides to the greatest extent possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

An organization of professional guides dedicated to promoting a quality, ethical outdoor experience.