



Sturgeon Point Association
84 Irene Avenue
Fenelon Falls, ON K0M 1N0

April 3, 2023

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Re: Environmental Registry of Ontario Number 019-6590
Proposed amendments to *Ontario Regulation 161/17* under the *Public Lands Act*.

On behalf of the community of Sturgeon Point, the Sturgeon Point Association wishes to express its support for the proposed amendments to the above noted regulation, that will clarify the structures or things that *cannot* be placed and used for overnight accommodation on water over public land.

In April 2022, the Stoney Lake Association submitted a letter opposing these dwellings and brought to the Ministry's attention important issues pertaining to environmental and community concerns, namely: Environmental Impacts, Public Safety and Navigational Impacts and Increased Conflicts and Costs to Municipalities. The Sturgeon Point Association is also concerned about these issues and opposes any amendments to the Ontario Regulation 161/17 under the Public Lands Act that ignores these concerns.

We support the amendment of such regulations to “exclude floating accommodations or float homes (house-like structures incorporating a floatation system, intended for use or being used or occupied for residential or longer term purposes and not primarily intended for, or usable in, navigation) or barges with residential units or camping facilities” (collectively, “Float Homes”), on the understanding that such changes will not impact a *boater’s* ability to navigate, including reasonable mooring or anchoring.

We understand the intent of the proposed amendments to be to limit, or prohibit, such Float Homes from public waterways, an objective of which we are supportive; we would expect further legislation or regulations to specifically address and govern where and under what circumstances Float Homes may otherwise be appropriate and permissible, and would look forward to an opportunity to provide comment on such future legislation.

Yours very truly,

Cat Medici, President
Sturgeon Point Association