

Dear Committee:

As a kayaker who has had up close contact with less accessible areas of river bank, I urge you to support HB 2555 as well as HB 2695 in order to protect the "nurseries" of the river which lie along banks and offer habitat and food for many river species. These nearshore areas are very vulnerable to and harmed by artificial waves generated by huge, heavy boats that tow some water sports enthusiasts.

By passing HB 2555 and HB 2695, we can limit the wave-generating weight of these water sports boats to 4,000 lbs and can create a more representative OSMB to better establish protection of the river nurseries, private property, and people who enjoy the river in other ways.

Bottom line: These boats are far too big for the river environment. And the river and the people who love it would benefit from broader OSMB representation.

Thank you for supporting these two bills.

Sincerely,

Leigh Coffey