

Dear Committee:

I urge you to support HB 2555 and HB 2695 to protect the nurseries of the river. These nurseries, that create habitat and food for many river species, are the very nearshore areas that are harmed by artificial waves generated by some towed water sports boats.

By passing HB 2555 and HB 2695, we can limit the huge weight of towed water sports boats to 4,000 lbs (which should be river-wide), and can create a more representative OSMB to better incorporate protection of the nurseries of the river, protect private property, and protect other river users.

Today these boats are far too big, and the OSMB is too limited in its representation. We need an OSMB that better represents the interests of all river users, including the exploding number of hand powered boaters who use kayaks and canoes. These boaters are largely at the mercy of ever larger towed water sports boats, which creates a serious safety issue. I believe that more members of varying backgrounds and interests would help to create an OSMB that is more responsive to all river users.

Thank you for supporting these two bills.

Sincerely,
Roger H. Kofler