

I spoke at the meeting yesterday, but I also wanted to submit a written testimony, thank you for the opportunity for both!

I have been an avid boater my entire life. I grew up waterskiing on an old boat that was eventually passed to me (otherwise I never would have been able to afford a boat!). It seems there is a perception that "Wake Boats" are all very expensive and only purchased by wealthy people. In reality, boating should be something that is attainable for everyone! Adding a tax (5%?!) makes it even harder for some families to afford to get into boating when we should really be trying to make it easier! What an amazing family activity, especially now, as we are still trying to social distance!

Also, the fact that Wake Boats are specifically targeted in this bill is upsetting. There are many different types of boats and user activities on the river, why single out one specific user group? Some of the user groups pay no fees at all and have access to the river and launch ramps just the same.

I am in favor of putting dollars into more enforcement, education, safety, cooperation, etc., but not at the expense of one specific group of river users. We are all in this together!

Thanks for your time and consideration.