



High-Fishtrap-Rush Lakes Association

P.O. Box 122
Boulder Junction, WI 54512
info@HFRLA.org

Dear Representative Swearingen and Members of the Assembly State Affairs Committee:

By unanimous vote, the Board of Directors of the High-Fishtrap-Rush Lake Association (HFRLA) strongly opposes the enactment of AB 1033 in its present form. The reasons that we oppose this bill are:

1. The bill does not protect waters of the state. It will allow the operation of wake-enhancing boats in shallow waters with no penalty. The bill's only restriction is that the boats are not operated within 200 feet of shore. As determined by numerous documented scientific studies, wake boats stir up sediments and destroy aquatic vegetation when operated in depths of less than 30 feet. Since a large portion of our lakes are less than 30 feet deep, and all the aquatic plants are at these depths or less, wake boat operation would destroy fish habitat and impact water quality.
2. This proposed legislation eliminates local control, which is in the best interest of our residents and HFRLA members. The Towns of Land O' Lakes, Boulder Junction and Presque Isle have enacted reasonable ordinances that restrict boats from operating in wake-enhanced modes.
3. Our lakes are important breeding areas for common loons. There are five breeding pairs with nests on our lakes. Operation of boats with enhanced waves will swamp loon nests during the breeding season and make it difficult for the adult loons to raise their young after they are hatched. Loons in Wisconsin and throughout the United States are declining in number.
4. There is no provision in the proposed bill to address the introduction of aquatic invasive species from overly large ballast tanks that are needed to operate these boats in wake enhancement mode. Based on recent observations, our lakes are free of the most detrimental aquatic invasives, including Eurasian Milfoil. If these species are introduced by large amounts of untreated ballast water, the cost to our lake owners to address this would be very large, with no guarantee that additional ballast water could reintroduce these species.
5. Our membership is very concerned about wake boats. At the last annual meeting of our lake association membership, those present voted unanimously to support the adoption of ordinances by the towns of Boulder Junction, Land O' Lakes and Presque Isle to restrict boats that operated in enhanced wake modes.



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6. This setback will cause damage to property, docks, boats, shorelines as well as impact nesting birds and vegetation. Energy from these massive boats' waves require setbacks of over 500 feet from shores.

We ask that the authors of AB 1033 reconsider this proposed legislation and revise it to address the comments above. We also suggest that any future public hearings on this bill be scheduled during times when our membership is available (summer months) and at a location closer to the lakes that will be impacted most in Northern Wisconsin. Operation of a boat like this is the equivalent of driving a monster truck on the sidewalk full of children walking to school!

High-Fishtrap-Rush Lake Association Board:

Paul Egelhoff

Gary Teilens

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