



February 09, 2020

Natural Resources Committee
Indiana House of Representatives

Re: Boating Industry Support of HB1098, Amendment #1 and Amendment #2

Dear Chairman Eberhart and Members of the Committee:

We write you today to express our support for HB1098, including Amendment #1 and Amendment #2 on behalf of the members of the Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA), National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) and Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA). We are the leading trade associations representing marine dealers, marine manufacturers and manufacturers of tow boats and associated equipment, respectively.

The recreational boating industry in Indiana has an **annual economic impact of \$4.1 billion**. Hoosiers spend \$313 million every year on new boats, engines and marine accessories. The 398 recreational boating businesses in Indiana **provide 14,265 jobs**. More than **219,000 boats are registered** in Indiana for enjoyment of its many water recreation opportunities.

We ask that you **support HB1098, including Amendment #1 and Amendment #2**. Together, they put forward sensible legislation that defines wake surfing and wake boarding, establishes safety requirements and establishes a process for communities to appropriately address specific needs for their lake(s). HB1098 provides an opportunity for the legislature to put in place important safety mechanisms while balancing the needs of all.

In particular, we appreciate that HB1098 establishes several safety requirements. It prohibits wake boarding and wake surfing at night, which will help reduce the potential for accidents. The bill also prohibits wake surfing behind boats whose propellers extend beyond the transom or swim platform, which provides another layer of protection for surfers.

We greatly appreciate the thoughtful authorship and commitment to ensuring that all users have an opportunity to use Indiana's beautiful waters. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Sims, at jsims@nmma.org or (612) 961-2220. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Adam Fortier-Brown
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA)

Jill Sims
National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)

Chris Bischoff
Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA)