

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.

Currently, there are times when as a kayaker or paddle boarder- it is impossible to cross certain sections of the river without getting rocked and risk of capsizing. This also creates hazards for our underwater river friends such as otters and fish.

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.

Thank you for supporting these two bills.

Sincerely,

Dave Mendenhall