

Writing on behalf of house bill 2725 and 2555. Strongly opposing these two bills. Can not stress enough how much I opposes these bills. We are riverfront property owners who recreate on this river and have for many many years. It's Where we spend our time with our kids and extended family.

We all have towed water sports endorsements. These endorsements were designed to help educate boat owners in ways to use the river to keep from damaging docks and property.

Those pushing for this bills that say it will stop the erosion of the riverbanks are wrong. It is caused by nature. The natural rise, fall, and currents of the river are what cause the erosion. The science behind those pushing these bans is one sided. They are biased. They are not fair. They are segregating one specific group of users on the river.

The economic impact alone should stop these bills from going through. The amount of money that is put into the neighboring towns, cities, and counties from those recreating on the river is staggering. Between fuel, snacks, drinks, ice, life jackets...ect. This alone would be devastating to our local economy.

More time and research needs to be put into this bill. I cannot be convinced that after hundreds of years of life on the river that in the last five years you could come up with the conclusion that banning boats over 4,000 pounds is going to stop the eroding of the bank. It's ridiculous.

Sincerely,  
Becca Austen