

Dear Committee members, in support of HB2555

Some of the testimony from the opponents to the bill sounded like a broken record. That is because they were coached by the out-of-state boat manufacturers to say certain things. Most of those people received an email from the industry because they were on a mailing list for a local wake boat dealership.

"local businesses will be decimated" Why did no local business owners testify as to this? Because it's not true. Matt Radich is an employee of Active Water Sports, not the owner. If he/she, or the shops, or restaurants, or gas stations were concerned, they would have testified.

"Two-Thirds of families will be kicked off the river" This statement is based on the OSMB chart that shows that of the 400 or so boats with towed water sports endorsements, two-thirds of them weigh over 4000 pounds. So, that about 270 boats out of the 10,000 plus recreational boats registered in the area Worst case scenario, those 270 people trade in their boat for a boat that the other 130 people are happily using.

"there is no empirical science" That was obviously coached, who uses the word "empirical" regularly? The fact is that there is tons of empirical science in the form of tons of embankment that has been lost into the river. The definition of empirical, is that something was observed rather than theorized. The photo of the no wake zone with absolutely no erosion totally debunks the myth that winter water levels cause erosion. If that were true, the no wake zone would show the exact same erosion as the areas where wake boats operate.

"it would cause dangerous crowding in other areas" Why did nobody from these other areas testify as to that concern? My guess is that those areas would gladly welcome the extra business.

"we need education and enforcement" As one proponent said, you can't educate away the size of the wake. As far as enforcement, this bill provides for a sticker to be placed on any boat that wants to participate in towed sports, seems easy to enforce, if they don't have a sticker, they are in violation.

These are the points that the out-of-state boat manufacturers sent out in their email and recommended that the opponents reiterate these points.