

Submitter: Michelle Davis
On Behalf Of: NH LAKES
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB1589

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 1589. NH LAKES supports SB 1589. and as a publicly-supported, statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping New Hampshire's lakes clean and healthy, NH LAKES advocates for laws and other public policies and programs designed to achieve this mission. NH LAKES seeks to promote clean water policies related to the increasing popularity of wakesurfing—an activity that can degrade the health of our waterbodies when conducted in certain ways in certain areas.

In certain areas of a waterbody, enhanced wakes supporting wakesurfing activities can erode shorelines and disturb lake or river bottom sediment—these actions can release nutrients into the water and cause toxic cyanobacteria blooms that are harmful to wildlife, swimmers, and pets. These enhanced wakes can also disturb critical fish and bird nesting habitat.

NH LAKES is not suggesting wakesurfing should be banned outright. We maintain that when done far enough from the shoreline and in deep enough water, wakesurfing can be a safe, healthy, and fun activity for families and water sports enthusiasts while minimizing adverse impacts to lake and river health. We believe our beloved water can support a variety of on-water recreational activities when conducted in ways that minimize impacts to lake and river health.