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RESOLUTION ON ENHANCED WAKE REGULATIONS

WHEREAS: the lakes of Sawyer County, Wisconsin are integral to the recreational base of the economy in Sawyer County.

AND WHEREAS: Legislation has been proposed to regulate wakesurfing and wakeboarding,

AND WHEREAS: the legislation as currently written fails to set minimum standards for the protection of private property, public safety and enjoyment, and aquatic environments,

AND WHEREAS: several towns in Sawyer County have already set standards that use evidence from aquatic and engineering studies which protect shorelines of lakes in Sawyer County from erosion by these enhanced wakes,

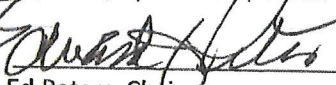
AND WHEREAS: the legislation fails to include a standard related to wake depth that would protect water quality in lakes from scouring by enhanced wakes,

AND WHEREAS: The legislation repeats standards already in place in other statutes,

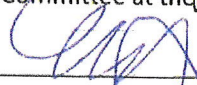
THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors does recommend that the Wisconsin Legislature engage in meaningful discussions to pass standards that balance the right of everyone to recreate on waters of the State of Wisconsin, by affirming that;

Wisconsin's local governments deserve local control to set their own standards beyond state minimums, of at least 700 feet from the shore, and to prohibit enhanced wake creation in waters shallower than at least 30 feet in depth.

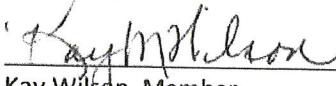
Recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors at its meeting on November 14, 2023, by the Land, Water and Forest Resources Committee at their November 8, 2023 meeting.



Ed Peters, Chair



Marc Helwig, Vice-Chair



Kay Wilson, Member

Brian Bisonette, Member


Jason Weaver, Member

Kevin Sheptick, Member

This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors 14th day of November, 2023.



Tweed Shuman, Sawyer County Board of Supervisors



Lynn Fitch, County Clerk



Sawyer County Administrator's Office

10610 Main Street, Suite 23 - Hayward, WI 54843

Phone: 715-638-3245

Email andy.albarado@sawyercountygov.org

December 18, 2023

Hello –

Sawyer County has approved the attached Resolution on Enhance Wage Regulations in regards to proposed wakeboarding and wakesurfing legislation that was being discussed and has recently been introduced. There is a set of bills (AB 656/SB 680) that have been assigned to legislative committees that are proposing to establish statewide standards for wakesurfing and wakeboarding.

This legislation is concerning to Sawyer County, as a one-size fits all approach. In addition, a number of Sawyer County towns have already adopted wakesurfing/wakeboarding ordinances with more restrictive regulations. As proposed the legislation would not allow a local government to adopt more restrictive regulations than what the legislation establishes.

We are circulating our Resolution to other Counties, local governments, State Legislators, and the Governor and requesting that there can be meaningful discussions to pass standards that balance the right of everyone to recreate on the waters of the State of Wisconsin, and local governments retain control to set their own standards for wakeboarding and wakesurfing.

We encourage other legislative bodies to consider adopting similar resolutions and communicate those expectations to the State Legislature.

Sincerely,

Andy Albarado
County Administrator