

**From:** Jeff Meessmann [mailto:jmeessmann@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 1:21 PM  
**To:** Michael Engleson; Ted Rulseh; Tom Ewing  
**Subject:** Potential Wake Surfing Bill

The information below was sent to Senator Flezkowski and Representative Swearingen when I learned that they may sponsor a bill requesting 200 feet from shore and 200 acres (minimum lake size) for wake surfing. Now I learned that the bill would only include 200 feet from shore. This would be similar to a bill that was passed in Georgia and was driven by the boating industry. Note: we already have 200 feet from shore in Presque Isle and it is not enough for these large powerful boats.

I might be asking for your help in the near future to defend something other than just 200 feet from shore. I truly believe that with the State's help, reasonable wake sport regulations and appropriate inspection and decontamination procedures could be put in place that would allow this recreational activity to continue without damaging and contaminating our lakes.

Jeff Meessmann

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To: Senator Felzkowski  
Representative Swearingen  
Subj: Wake Sports Regulation

Date: October 9, 2023

My name is Jeff Meessmann and I live in Presque Isle, Wisconsin. I have been working on wake sports regulation as a part of my commitment to protect our valuable Wisconsin lakes and rivers. Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes are central to the state's tourism worth \$23.7 billion of economic impact annually. I have given a presentation in SUPPORT OF AMENDING CURRENT WISCONSIN STATUTES ON THE GENERATION OF INTENTIONALLY MAGNIFIED WAKES to Representative Swearingen and to Senator Felzkowski's chief of staff. It is my understanding that both of you are preparing a Bill that would regulate wake sports.

In preparing the Bill regulating wake sports I request that you consider the Wisconsin Conservation Congress citizen resolutions that were submitted in 2022 and 2023. All of these resolutions passed the public survey by a margin of approximately two to one or better. The Vilas County resolutions cited below passed either the WCC Motorized Recreation Committee or the WCC Environmental Advisory Committee by unanimous vote.

Key points and summary of the resolutions are given below.

1. Would you support the WCC and legislature modifying existing statutes to prohibit generation of intentionally magnified wakes for wake surfing through the use of ballast, design features, operational procedures or any other means on lakes smaller than **1500 acres** and less than **20 feet deep** and maintain a distance from shore and other lake users of **700 feet**? (Citizen Resolution # 640423)

2. Wake boat ballast systems cannot be completely emptied. Therefore, they can transfer aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels, spiny water fleas and fish diseases from one lake to another. Wake boats could be used on lakes and rivers for activities such as water skiing, tubing and pleasure cruising but use of the ballast system feature should be prohibited. Would you support the WCC and legislature creating a new statute that prohibits the use of wake boat ballast systems on Wisconsin's lakes and rivers? (Citizen Resolution # 640523)

I have attached these two resolutions with this email for your consideration. With the State's help, I believe reasonable wake sport regulations and appropriate inspection and decontamination procedures could be put in place that would allow this recreational activity to continue without damaging and contaminating our lakes.

This is a complex issue that will require everyone working together. While I am not an expert, I have been studying this issue for over four years and would be willing to offer any help that you deem appropriate.

I was told that your Bill will include minimum depth of lake, minimum distance from shore and minimum lake size for wake surfing. Would it be possible to get a copy of the preliminary draft of the proposed Bill?

Thank you for your consideration,

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