If you are opposed to the artificially enhanced wakes produced by boats, for example, for wake surfing and the like, please contact your state assembly representatives and senators ASAP, voicing your opposition. Bills are being introduced that take away the local governments ability to pass ordinances like ours, and will nullify our recently adopted ordinance. If you live in WI, you can copy and paste the letter below and send it to both the legislators in your permanent residence district and the Pearl Lake District. If your permanent address is out of state, please contact the legislators in the Pearl Lake District. Correspondence must include your full name, address in the corresponding district and your phone number.

Pearl Lake’s legislators can be emailed at: Sen.Ballweg@legis.wisconsin.gov and Rep.Petersen@legis.wisconsin.gov

You can find your local legislators by clicking this link: <https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov>

Re AB 656 and SB 680

I am writing to ask you to oppose AB 656 and SB 680 which concern boating activity which produces artificially enhanced wake. The Assembly Bill was assigned to the Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation and the Senate Bill was assigned to the Committee on Financial Institutions and Sporting Heritage. If enacted, this bill would result in environmental harm to many smaller lakes and their shorelines, increase the probability of aquatic invasive species, and cause dangerous conditions for swimmers, anglers and other watercraft.

Significantly, the bill purports to regulate and restrict wake surfing and wake boarding but, in essence, it allows it to occur if a lake is 400 feet (not yards) wide and is over 50 acres. Most concerning is the bill would disallow ordinances enacted by local government seeking to regulate wake boarding and wake surfing unless the ordinance is less restrictive than the bill.

In 2022, after review by the Department of Natural Resources, the Town of Leon in Waushara County, working with the residents of Pearl Lake and its Protection and Rehabilitation District (PRD), adopted Ordinance 2022-06 Restricting Artificial Wake Enhancement on Pearl Lake. Pearl Lake is approximately 100 acres in size and in places more than 400 feet wide.   If the pending legislation is enacted, the 2022 Pearl Lake Ordinance would be rendered null and void.   This would result in damage to the lake and lake shore including resuspension of sediment which will increase algal blooms, shoreline erosion and threats to aquatic life.   It will also result in increased probability of aquatic invasive species, cause damage to riparian properties, including damage to shoreline, rip-rap, natural buffers and docks.  It has and could cause dangerous conditions for swimmers and anglers as well as young children playing on the shoreline.

It has come to my attention that Sen. Andre Jacque is circulating a proposal that is much more in line with the health of lakes and the protection of people and property. If that proposal is introduced as a bill, it would be worth reviewing.

At the very least, I respectfully request you to oppose AB 656 and SB 680. Please vote in a manner that preserves local authority to enact ordinances that are stricter and/or when state laws are not suited for their local situations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,