

To: Peter LaFlamme, Division Director, Watershed Management Division
Department of Environmental Conservation
Davis Building – 3rd Floor
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620 – 3522

Date: March 9, 2022

Re: Modification to Use of Public Waters Rules

Attached is a petition to adopt a management rule for wake boats and wake sports on Vermont lakes and ponds under the Use of Public Waters Rules. The petition is submitted by Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL). RWVL is a collaborative group of citizens from across Vermont who began working together in March 2021 based on a collective concern about the adverse impacts from wake boats and wake-enhanced sports on Vermont lakes and ponds. Our group represents individuals from inland lakes and ponds with a full range of water-based recreational interests.

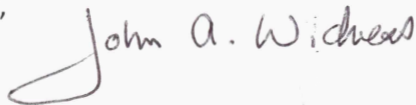
Over the last 12 months of meetings and discussions with interested individuals from across Vermont and other states across the country, and through our comprehensive research, we have formulated a reasonable management rule to allow for the enjoyment of wake sports in appropriate areas of suitable Vermont water bodies. Our petition will address how enhanced wakes pose unique challenges to public safety and environmental conservation. The powerfully enhanced wakes associated with wake sport activities can potentially cause significant harm to lake environments and those who enjoy them. Enhanced large wakes can disrupt traditional water recreational activities, cause shoreline erosion, harm littoral aquatic life and inundate loon nests. The wake boats' powerful propellor wash can damage bottom ecology, increase the proliferation of non-native aquatic species, degrade water quality, and negatively impact property values.

Our petition considers numerous scientific studies, analyses, and other pertinent information worldwide, cited with convenient links for review. During this petition review process, if additional letters of support, studies, or reports become available on this subject, we will make every effort to submit these materials for your consideration.

The opinions of the individuals making up RWVL vary concerning the best way to manage the wake-enhanced activities of wake boats and wake sports on Vermont waters. We are, however, unanimous in our support of the urgent need to regulate these activities.

After your receipt and initial review of this petition, we will request the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss our process to reach the specific rule proposal. We look forward to public participation and discussion.

Yours truly,



Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes' designated representative, John ("Jack") A. Widness, 316 Lake Raponda Rd, Wilmington VT, 802-464-8981, responsiblewakesvt@gmail.com

Attachments:

CONFIDENTIAL Complete contact Information for ANR petition signatories;
Petition to ANR to Amend the Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules (with HMDL electronic links)
Cc. Julie Moore, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Peter Walke, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation
Oliver Pierson, DEC Program Manager, Division of Lakes and Ponds Management and Protection

Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes Members* All of Whom Support the ANR Petition for the "Modification to Use of Public Waters Rules"

	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Town/City, & State</u>	<u>Lake Affiliation</u>
1	Bull	Holly	W. Charleston VT	Echo Lake
2	Marchesani	Skip	Woodbury VT	Greenwood Lake
3	Gagne	Carmen	Cabot VT	Joe's Pond
4	Gagne	Richard	Cabot VT	Joe's Pond
5	Hendrickson	Julie	West Danville VT	Joe's Pond
6	Guerlain	Thierry	West Danville VT	Joe's Pond
7	Towne	Brad	West Danville VT	Joe's Pond
8	Bouchard	Butch	Cabot VT	Joe's Pond
9	Johnson	David	Leicester VT	Lake Dunmore
10	Sawyer	Jim	Craftsbury VT	Lake Elligo
11	Schwartz	Glenn	Elmore VT	Lake Elmore
12	Ward	Tom	Fairlee VT	Lake Fairlee
13	Babbott	Katherine	Fairlee VT	Lake Fairlee
14	Johnson	Lisa	Fairlee VT	Lake Fairlee
15	Satterthwaite	Ridge	Fairlee VT	Lake Fairlee
16	Forbes	David	Fairlee VT	Lake Fairlee
17	Hughes	James	Fairlee VT	Lake Fairlee
18	Roth	David	West Fairlee VT	Lake Fairlee
19	Sharpe	Daniel	Hinesburg VT	Lake Iroquois
20	Handler	Meg	Hinesburg VT	Lake Iroquois
21	Wooten	John	West Glover VT	Lake Parker
22	Plastridge	Brenda	West Glover VT	Lake Parker
23	Widness	John	Wilmington VT	Lake Raponda
24	Melton	Will	Wilmington VT	Lake Raponda
25	Winter	Laura	Wilmington VT	Lake Raponda
26	Milazzo	Mark	Peacham VT	Peacham Pond
27	Winston	Martha	Peacham VT	Peacham Pond
28	Wells	Ed	Richmond, VT	Salem Lake
29	Andrews	Jenifer	Glover VT	Shadow Lake
30	Hill	Ronald	Glover VT	Shadow Lake
31	Cano	Christine	Greensboro VT	Caspian Lake
32	Smith	Amy	East Calais VT	Woodbury Lake
33	Martin	Susan	East Calais VT	Woodbury Lake
34	Martin	Robert	East Calais VT	Woodbury Lake
35	Hopkins	Jennifer	Newport VT	Undesignated

* Included with this petition is a **CONFIDENTIAL** separate document with private contact information (i.e., home address, zip code, e-mail and phone number) for these same individuals. We request that this information **NOT** be made available to the public.