



March 10 2026

My name is Deborah Silva and I am the President of Sand Dam Reservoir Association located at Smith and Sayles Reservoir in Glocester RI. Our vice-president, Cleo Monti, joins me here today because this is a matter of great importance. I'm testifying today because I don't want Wake boats on the lake. I want to prevent their occurrence rather than face the harmful consequences if wake boats enter our lake.

Smith and Sayles Reservoir is 173 acres with a maximum depth of 11 feet and an average depth of less than 5 feet. Its shape is mostly oblong, with some very narrow sections, and such wakes would be extremely harmful. The shoreline is mostly forested and 2 large land areas hold a protective status as conservation properties. This beautiful natural resource is valued not only by the landowners whose properties abut the shoreline, but also by the many visitors who have access to the lake via the State boat ramp.

Wake boats pose numerous dangers to a lake such as ours. The research identifies the negative consequences of the significant disturbance to the lake bottom. Toxic algae blooms would become more frequent. And danger to kayakers, paddle boarders, fishermen and even to people enjoying their docks will be threatened by wake boats operating in a lake of our size, depth and shape.

I have seen first hand the damage done to Keech Pond's shoreline and docks. We can not allow this to happen to our fragile ecosystems any longer. We need to preserve the sanctity of our lake, a natural resource for our children, grandchildren, and all future generations.