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TESTIMONY

Hello, my name is Gigi Uttley and I live on Slack's Reservoir. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you my observations of wake boats on Slack's.

This past summer, in August, my family was enjoying the lake. My son and his four-year-old daughter were in the shallow part of the lake, with my granddaughter on her Dad's shoulders. A wake boat drove by generating a large wave that caused my son to lose his footing and fall forward, with both of them falling underwater. Luckily my four-year-old granddaughter was wearing a life jacket and could swim and recover quickly. Later, I jumped in and a wake boat drove past again. I too lost my footing and I got a mouthful of water. Fortunately, no one was injured. I do not think these boats should be so close to the shoreline causing powerful waves that are detrimental to our safety.

I have written to my Lake Association Board of Directors expressing my concerns regarding use of wake boats on the lake generally. I told them that, after some research, I learned that wake boats should be at least 500 feet from shorelines and docks. I noted, too, that such parameter is not feasible given the width of the lake. I also stated that both my neighbors and I are fearful that our beautiful lake will become increasingly uninhabitable for our near shore wildlife, pointing out erosion of the shoreline and the development of toxic blue green algae and other dangerous water quality concerns.

As an aside, homeowners on Slacks can't use the lake for swimming or boating at least a couple of weeks each summer per the advice of DEM due to Slack's toxic algae blooms. This is in spite of our annual preventive water treatments and other steps taken to preserve Slack's water quality, including the installation of underwater aerators,

The Board of Slack's Lake Association responded to my concerns stating, among other things, that it has "recommended in newsletters to Lake Association members against any new homeowner purchases of wake boats" and that the Board "could not stop purchases of wake boats even if it wanted to". As for my concern over erosion and toxic algae, the Board advised that its members should input their own respective countermeasures to avoid erosion damage. They continued to state that the effects of two wake boats have proved to be negligible when it comes to the lake's water quality and, that the Board closely monitors the lake's health and, when necessary, removes cyanobacteria from the lake.

While I recognize other factors contribute to blue green algae and other environmental concerns, It seems crazy for the state of RI, lake associations and other lake advocates to be spending thousands of dollars each season on weed prevention, cyanobacteria removal, underwater aerators and the development of a long range water treatment plans costing \$25,000 while – at the same time - permitting wake boats to operate on these same lakes, potentially undoing all the good we are trying to accomplish with respect to preserving the health of our lakes. It also seems crazy that lake abutters are expected to spend additional monies to make repairs caused by wake boats.