

**Addendum Notes: Information Provided to Board by Various Board Members**

**A. LLAA Special Board Meeting 2/16/2026 Agenda**

**B. Below information sent to LLAA Board on 2/15 & 2/16 for review in preparation of meeting: <https://wisconsinlakes.org>**

a. 2/15/26 Email to board about Board's responsibility to defend **Public Trust Doctrine**: which protects the people of Wisconsin's rights to:

- Transportation and navigation on waterways.
- Protection of water quality and aquatic habitat.
- Recreational activities, including boating, fishing, hunting and swimming in waterways.
- Enjoyment of scenic beauty while on the water.

b. 2/16/26 WI Lakes website posts:

- Site asked CONSTITUENTS "to call legislator to not support SB 1025"
- Site asked constituents to "contact their senator and respectively encourage them to vote **NO** on SB 1025 and **YES** on SB 1024"

**C. Carol provided information below from Wisconsin Lakes Association web site to board prior to meeting.**

**Wisconsin Lakes Association is asking members to call WI legislators about Competing Proposals.**

1. To support Wisconsin SB 1024:
  - a. Protecting local units of government that enact an ordinance more restrictive than state statutes (unlike AB 1033/SB 1025)
  - b. 500-ft setback from shoreline, operation in at least 20-ft water
2. To **not** support AB 1033 / SB 1025
  - a. Existing Wisconsin law requires all boats to operate at a slow-no-wake speed within 100 feet of docks, piers, or shorelines.
  - b. Wake boat enhanced wave activity more than 200-ft has been amended to 300 ft, no depth requirement, no protection for local control by local units of government.

***If you can't attend the public hearing - Please call or email your legislators and ask them to **OPPOSE SB1025**, and **SUPPORT SB1024**.***

**How do I find my legislators?**

**CLICK HERE**

### **Why Wisconsin Lakes **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 1025**

- **No support for local control** - SB1025 are silent on local control leaving a gaping hole for wake boat industry attorneys to challenge the 77 existing local ordinances, and prevent new ordinances from getting enacted.
- **No indemnity clause** for Towns and Town officials who might approve more protective wake surf regulations. We must protect Towns and Town officials from frivolous lawsuits.
- **They fall far short of the 700 feet** from shore or even or even the 500 feet in a compromise bill SB1024
- **There is zero reference to depth** - which means people can wake surf in shallow water and blow-up the lake bottom - despite many new studies noting wake surfing should be done in depths of 20-30 feet to avoid damaging the lake bottom.

### **Why Wisconsin Lakes **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 1024**

- **The 500-foot distance from shore** provides stronger protection for Wisconsin's shorelines. Wake-enhanced activities such as wakesurfing and wakeboarding generate wave energy that can travel several hundred feet before dissipating. Requiring these activities to occur at least 500 feet from shore better safeguards waterbodies, shoreline properties, and other lake users.
- **The 20-foot minimum depth** requirement protects lakebeds, fish habitat, and recreational users. Scientific research, including the 2025 St. Anthony Falls Laboratory study, documents the harmful impacts of wakesurfing in waters shallower than 20 feet. Operating in shallow areas can damage lake bottoms and critical fish habitat, including sport fish habitat.
- SB 1024 also **preserves local control** by affirming the authority of local governments to adopt more protective lake ordinances. The bill includes civil immunity protections for ordinances enacted or enforced in good faith.

- Give the reason you are calling (SB 1025 for Senate) and the stance you want your legislator to take - "I request that you do not support SB 1025". If you send an email you can explain why the bills should not be supported, and this can include:
  - **No support for local control** - AB1033/SB1025 are silent on local control leaving a gaping hole for wake boat industry attorneys to challenge the 77 existing local ordinances, and prevent new ordinances from getting enacted.
  - **No indemnity clause** for Towns and Town officials who might approve more protective wake surf regulations. We must protect Towns and Town officials from frivolous lawsuits.
  - **They fall far short of the 700 feet** from shore or even or even the 500 feet in a compromise bill SB1024
  - **There is zero reference to depth** - which means people can wake surf in shallow water and blow-up the lake bottom - despite many new studies noting wake surfing should be done in depths of 20-30 feet to avoid damaging the lake bottom.

SAVE THE DATE!  
2026 Wisconsin  
Lakes & Rivers  
Convention  
April 15-17, 2026  
Stevens Point  
~\*~\*~

For more information, please visit

[wisconsinlakes.org](http://wisconsinlakes.org)

~\*~\*~  
Wisconsin Lakes

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*We Speak for Lakes!*

Wisconsin Lakes  
depends on our  
members and donors  
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activities and work to  
ensure clean, safe,  
and healthy lakes.  
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## **ACTION ALERT SB1025**

### Transportation & Local Government Committee

The [Transportation & Local Government Committee](#) is expected to hold a public hearing on Senate Bill 1025 (bad) and Senate Bill 1024 (good) on Thursday, March 19, 2026, in Room 411 South at the Capitol.

We encourage constituents represented by members of this committee to contact their senator, and respectfully urge them to vote **NO** on SB 1025 and **YES on SB 1024**.

The members on the Transportation & Local Government Committee are:

Senator	District	Contact Information
<a href="#">Cory Tomczyk (Chair)</a>	<a href="#">Senate District 29</a>	(608) 266-2502
<a href="#">Rob Hutton (vice-chair)</a>	<a href="#">Senate District 5</a>	(608) 266-2512
<a href="#">Van H. Wanggaard</a>	<a href="#">Senate District 21</a>	(608) 266-1832
<a href="#">Tim Carpenter</a>	<a href="#">Senate District 3</a>	(608) 266-8535
<a href="#">Mark Spreitzer</a>	<a href="#">Senate District 15</a>	(608) 266-2253

Click on the Senator's name for more information (including email), click on the district to see the map for the district (and if you're in it).

What to say when you call (or send email):

- Always be courteous and concise!!
- State your name and the town/city where you live. If you own property or recreate on a lake or river where wake sports are a threat, state that too.
- Give the reason you are calling (SB 1025 for Senate) and the stance you want your legislator to take - "I request that you do not support SB 1025". If you send an email you can explain why the bills should not be supported, and this can include:
  - **No support for local control** - AB1033/SB1025 are silent on local control leaving a gaping hole for wake boat industry attorneys to challenge the 77 existing local ordinances and prevent new

## D. Notes from Jim Zach 2/23/26 about LLAA Special Board Meeting 2/16/26 below:

Page 3

I'm reading uncertainty regarding WI Lakes and distinguishing what is partisan political activity (not allowed) vs allowable advocacy/lobbying.

I'm suggesting adding this, in bottom 1/3 of page 3:

".....WI Lakes, is the one that actively advocates for the protection of lakes and rivers. [WI Lakes is a 501c3 organization. It advocates for/against proposed environmental legislation relating to WI aquatic resources. It does not advocate for or against partisan political candidates.](#)

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It appears to me that some Board members are uncertain regarding the distinction between what is partisan political activity versus advocacy/lobbying — and I am including myself in that — at that time. I realize minutes are a record of what was said at the time — but we are creating a document that doesn't clarify the main issue we were discussing. Does anyone else share this concern looking at these minutes in retrospect? I've served for decades on Portage County committees — one way to avoid these dilemmas is to just describe the topic of discussion and motions made and the outcome without attempting to quote what members said.

Comments regarding these paragraphs;

**Jim Wienser** "... as 501c3 LLAA we need other be cognizant of an possible lobbying done by an organization we financially support." "but use caution to not become involved in political partisan lobbying/advocacy." My concern this is lumping 501c3 disallowed partisan political activity with allowed lobbying/environmental advocacy — WI Lakes is also a 501c3, as LLAA is. What LLAA chooses to do is distinct from what is legal or illegal as a 501c3, and what WI Lakes advocates for — which is consistent with our Mission Statement.

**UNAPPROVED**

**Carol** "Are these posts on WI Lakes sites considered activity to lobby for legislation?"

It seems to me that the question raises an implication is that WI Lakes advocacy may be partisan political activity because it is advocating for readers to contact legislators regarding how to vote on a proposed legislation. I think it would be helpful to clarify that WI Lakes is not asking to vote for or against a candidate. It is asking people to express their opinions regarding environment issues in proposed legislation.

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**Jim Zach** "There is a difference between advocacy and lobbying activities."

I was wrong about that — and I'd rather not perpetuate that misunderstanding. I was mixing my misunderstanding of lobbying as being something that was partisan political and distinct from environmental advocacy when actually they are different terms for the same activity — and allowable for a 501c3. My lack of an accurate understanding may have contributed to what Jim Wienser said a couple paragraphs down on page 8 regarding "to be aware of the difference between lobbying and advocacy". I regret that.

### **Jim Wienser Motion**

I noted before that my seconding of Jim's motion came before discussion. Technically you can't have discussion of a motion until and unless there is a second.

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**Jim Zach**

Delete “~~4x6 foot~~” in 3rd line.

Delete the words “mechanical harvesting” from the 7th line. We’ve never done mechanical harvesting — it refers to bringing in a boat that cuts thick beds of EWM 6-8 ft below the surface and then lifts the cut weeds on a conveyor belt onto a barge-like boat for removal. Delete “~~milfoil~~” and leave EWM in the same line.

Thoughts?  
Jim Zach

**UNAPPROVED**