

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Matt Odermann, and I'm a parent of two avid barefoot water skiers. I am asking for your support of HB 1366. HB 1366 provides an exception for barefoot water skiers to wear a wetsuit designed with protection and floatation, instead of a Coast Guard approved PFD.

Other states have a similar exemption, and this bill borrowed language from those laws. Researching the states that have provided this exemption, I have not found any incidents where this exemption has been attributed to injuries or death.

A misconception about barefoot wetsuits is that they don't provide adequate floatation. Barefoot wetsuits build floatation into the chest, back, and butt areas. Barefoot wetsuits are fitted and designed to protect the skier when they fall and provide adequate buoyancy when the skier is in water.

As a parent of a child participating in this sport, I don't believe this exemption would increase the risk to an unacceptable level and cause me concern.

I hope that you will support the passage of this bill and would be able to answer any questions.

Thanks,

Matt Odermann