

February 2, 2023

Chairman AND members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

My name is Bob Wetsch and I live at 4610 Fort Lincoln Rd, Mandan. Since 1976. The Missouri River is my front yard. Over the last several years there has been a number of large cabin cruiser boats starting to use the river. These boats can and do often times generate large wakes which are very dangerous. I have had wakes from these boats go over the deck of my pontoon and cause minimal damage. A friend last year had a wake from one come over the deck of his pontoon and shook things so bad it threw his wife around the pontoon. She was trying to hold on to the table but was thrown into the table and broke 2 ribs. A neighbor just south of me had one of his grandkids tossed off of his dock by one of these wakes. This is a serious problem.

One of the issues is these boats for some reason are not required currently to be registered and provide visible registration numbers like other watercraft on the states waters. Therefore it is very difficult to identify the boats and their owners when these dangerous incidents happen. We must require visible registration on the bows of these boats like all others and hopefully this bill would do that. I would be happy to get into greater detail if you have any questions but I will end my written testimony with this. I urge you to provide those of us who are affected

by dangerous boaters to at least be able to identify them so we can report them to the ND Game & Fish or Sheriff's patrols.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concern.
If you have questions I would be happy to answer

Bob Wetsch
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