

March 14, 2022

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen  
Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee  
3207 Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Boating & Fishing Support for SF3392 by Recreational Boating & Fishing Community**

Dear Chair Ingebrigtsen, Vice Chair Ruud, Ranking Member Torres Ray & Committee Members,

On behalf of leaders in the recreational boating and fishing community, the undersigned organizations respectfully request your support for SF3392 – establishing a mandatory recreational boating safety education program in Minnesota.

Boating and fishing is vital to our way of life in our great state, as many Minnesotans enjoy our 11,842 lakes and many rivers. In Minnesota, we have over 825,000 registered boats and about 1.4 million licensed anglers. It's no wonder that boating and fishing are the top economic driver in the outdoor sector according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis 2020 Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account data.

As we continue to see growth in boating and fishing, we believe it is our responsibility to look out for our community and establish safety standards and procedures so that everyone can enjoy the waters in a responsible manner for years to come. As outdoor recreation is at an all time high, the time is now to implement boater education to ensure operators are safe on the water and we continue to be the best stewards of the resource.

The majority of states require some form of boater education, and while Minnesota requires an operator safety education course for every other motorized recreational product, it does not require such a course for boating. It is our collective priority to expand access to and participation in a boater education programs through online accessible coursework and in person opportunities.

We urge the committee to support this bill as it establishes:

- An accessible education course with national recognition and reciprocity for users.
- A proven way to dramatically improve boater safety on the water.
- An opportunity deliver key messages tailored for boaters using our many lakes and rivers.
- Creates further awareness on the threat of aquatic invasive species.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you on improving boater safety in the days ahead. If you have any questions please contact Jill Sims at the National Marine Manufacturers Association (612-961-2220 or [jsims@nmma.org](mailto:jsims@nmma.org)) or Chad Tokowicz at the Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (978-569-5127 or [chad@mraa.com](mailto:chad@mraa.com)).

Sincerely,

Absolute Outdoor of America, LLC  
Association of Marina Industries  
Bean's Greenwood Marina  
Bertha Boatworks  
BoatU.S.  
CD3 Systems  
Hannay's Inc  
Land O'Lakes Marine  
MarineMax Bayport  
MarineMax Excelsior  
MarineMax Rodgers  
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas  
Metro Area Marine Dealers  
Midwest Marina Association  
Midwest Water Sports  
Minnesota Inboard  
MN-Fish Sportfishing Coalition  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
Nisswa Marine  
North Central Marine Association  
Premier Marine  
Port of Sunnyside Club, Inc.  
River Valley Marine  
Tonka Bay Marina  
Water Sports Industry Association  
Wildlife Forever  
Wolf Marine, Inc.  
Yamaha Marine USA