



March 13, 2024

Senator Kari Dziedzic
Chair, State and Local Government and Veterans Committee
3113 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Kelly Morrison
3205 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Dziedzic, Senator Morrison, and Members of the State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), the Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA), and the Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA), we are writing to request that the committee strongly oppose SF 3561. The mandates and costs associated with this legislation will unduly burden Minnesota's small marine businesses and their global supply chains.

By way of introduction, NMMA is the trade association for the U.S. recreational boating industry, representing 1,300 marine businesses, including recreational boat, marine engine, and accessory manufacturers. The recreational boating industry has a \$230 billion impact on the nation's economy, supporting over 800,000 American jobs across 35,000 U.S.-based marine businesses.

WSIA is the towed watersports industry's leading advocate, working to strengthen, grow boating and protect the interests of its member companies and recreational boaters across the country. The WSIA develops best practices, maintains waterway access rights, educates participants, and promotes safety on the water, including when participating in towed watersports. WSIA represents over 440 member companies, including boat, marine engine, and accessory manufacturers, as well as marine dealers.

MRAA is the leading trade association of North American small businesses that sell and service new and used recreational boats and operate marinas, boatyards, and accessory stores. MRAA represents more than 1,300 individual member retail locations and conducts advocacy efforts on their behalf.

Minnesota's recreational boating industry is integral to the state's economic and social fabric, contributing an annual economic impact of \$6.9 billion and supporting over 25,000 jobs as well as 700 businesses. Minnesota currently has over 822,000 boat registrations, which is the second most registrations per—capita in the United States.

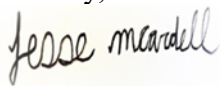
Our industry's commitment to sustainability and waste reduction is evidenced by the successful recycling of more than 80,000 pounds of polyethylene and polypropylene sheet plastics in just the past two years alone through voluntary recycling programs.

Marine manufacturers also incorporate recycled materials into their manufacturing processes, exemplified by the development of fully recyclable aluminum and fiberglass boat materials. Through this advancement, the marine industry has reduced its environmental footprint and promoted circular economy principles by ensuring that hull and structural components can be fully recycled. Furthermore, many manufacturers have transitioned from traditional plastic shipping materials to more sustainable alternatives such as cardboard and bamboo.

Although we support efforts to reduce waste and increase recycling, the one-size-fits-all solution for packaging types that have vastly different recycling needs outlined in Senate File 3561 will financially strain Minnesota's small marine businesses. We propose that the committee support incentives for businesses and the public to reduce waste in landfills without artificially raising manufacturing and consumer costs. The legislature should also explore leveraging the existing Solid Waste Management Tax, which generates over \$100 million annually, to support and enhance the state's existing solid waste infrastructure. Lastly, the legislature should expand proven public education programs that are needed to drive greater public participation in recycling programs, and any extended producer responsibility requirements should complement a coordinated national effort. These guiding principles will more effectively achieve waste reduction goals without negatively affecting marine businesses.

We marine manufacturers and dealers would welcome an opportunity to work with the committee on these issues, and at this time we request that you vote against SF 3561 as written.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse McArdell".

Jesse McArdell

State Policy & Engagement Manager Midwest
National Marine Manufacturers Association

Ethan Hellier

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ethan Hellier".

Midwest Government Affairs Manager

Water Sports Industry Association

Chad Tokowicz

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a diagonal stroke.

Government Relations Manager

Marine Retailers Association of the Americas