



April 4, 2025

Minnesota Senate
Attn: Chair Ron Latz
Room 1200 MN Senate Building
95 University Ave W
St Paul, MN 55103

Subject: Support for S.F. 2735 – Abandoned boats removal and disposal requirement

Dear Chair Latz and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), the Marine Retailers of the Americas Association (MRAA), and the Watersports Industry Association (WSIA), I am writing to express our strong support for S.F. 2735. We have partnered extensively throughout the United States to create policies and best practices for managing abandoned and derelict vessels (ADV's) and are excited to support this important initiative to preserve the environmental integrity of Minnesota's lakes and rivers for future generations.

NMMA is the leading trade association representing the recreational boating industry in North America. It is dedicated to industry growth by promoting product quality assurance, the boating lifestyle, public policy advocacy, market statistics, and research. NMMA member companies produce more than 80 percent of the boats, engines, trailers, accessories, and gear used by boaters and anglers throughout the US and Canada.

WSIA serves as the primary advocate for the towed watersports industry, striving to strengthen and grow boating while protecting the interests of its member companies and recreational boaters. WSIA works to develop best practices, preserve waterway access, educate participants, and promote safety, particularly in towed watersports activities. With over 440 member companies, WSIA represents a diverse range of stakeholders, including manufacturers of boats, marine engines, accessories, and marine dealers.

MRAA is the leading trade association for North American small businesses involved in selling and servicing new and used recreational boats, as well as operating marinas, boatyards, and accessory stores. MRAA represents more than 1,300 retail locations and advocates for their interests.

S.F. 2735 is an essential step towards preserving Minnesota's waterways by addressing the significant challenges posed by abandoned boats. By establishing clear guidelines for the tagging, notification, and removal of vessels, the bill will help reduce the risks of environmental degradation and keep Minnesota's waters navigable and safe. The penalties and financial liabilities outlined in the bill will serve as an effective deterrent to neglectful boat ownership and encourage better stewardship within the marine industry.

NMMA also fully supports the bill's approach to safeguarding private property rights while also ensuring that abandoned vessels are promptly identified and addressed. The 14-day remediation period for vessel owners and the potential for civil penalties will create a strong incentive for responsible boat maintenance and compliance with state regulations. Furthermore, the provisions that void licenses for those convicted will underscore the importance of adhering to state laws, which will ultimately benefit individuals and businesses engaged in recreational boating.

Our organization recognizes the value of maintaining the state's lakes and rivers as vibrant ecosystems that support both recreational activities and local economies. By coordinating with neighboring jurisdictions, S.F. 2735 strengthens the overall effort to address abandoned boats on boundary waters, ensuring that Minnesota's environmental standards align with those of its neighbors.

In conclusion, the undersigned associations fully support S.F. 2735 as a necessary and timely measure to protect Minnesota's precious water resources. We believe this bill will provide effective solutions to the challenges of abandoned boats while promoting a healthy environment and a thriving marine industry. Should you require any further information or support, please do not hesitate to contact Jmcardell@nmma.org.

Sincerely,

Jesse McArdell



Senior Manager of Midwest
Government Relations
National Marine Manufacturers
Association

Lee Gatts



Vice President of
Government Affairs
Water Sports Industry



Chad Tokowicz
Government Relations Manager
Marine Retailers of the Americas