



# catawba island marina

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January 21, 2020

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Maharath and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to speak today in support of House Bill 211.

My name is Jack Madison and I am the General Manager of Catawba Island Marina. A full-service marina located on Lake Erie. We store approximately 358 boats between heated inside, cold inside, and outside storage. Additionally, our rack operation has 238 boats stored year-round. So, as you can imagine out of almost 600 vessels, some customers do drop out.

After reviewing the provisions of HB 221, I am please to offer my support. As you may be aware, this problem is statewide. In the past, we have communicated to our former representative Steve Arndt and he has worked to explore a solution with the input of others and our current representative DJ Swearington.

Why do they abandon their boats? Usually it occurs because of a mechanical failure and they do not have the funds to repair. Winter and summer storage fees continue, and they lose interest. The other major cause is illness or death of a partner and boating is not a priority and they fall behind on storage fees to the point they owe more than the vessel is worth.

Presently, most marina operations do not follow through with acquiring the vessel because of the cost associated with trying to gain ownership and disposal. Usually these vessels are scrap and depending on the size, the loss could be between \$5,00 to \$10,000 to safely dispose of them in a landfill. The bottom line is that this is an expensive endeavor to complete.

It is the sad end of memories and dreams of their boating lives, but also is a cost to the businesses around the state that have to expend funds to alleviate this problem which could be reinvested back in our businesses. Again, this process is expensive from start to finish for both the owner and the marina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack B. Madison".

Jack B. Madison

General Manager C.I.M.