

House Transportation Committee  
House Bill 284  
Opponent Testimony  
May 21, 2024

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony regarding House Bill 284. I am the Chairman of The Ohio Waterways Safety Council. The Council is an advisory council to ODNR Parks & Watercraft. I am a past member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, hold a US Coast Guard Captains License, Past Commodore Of Inter-Lake Yachting Association and have taught Sailing at Kent State University.

Tow behind watersports IE: Waterskiing & Tubing are very popular here in Ohio. It is done on rivers and lakes that are sometimes very congested. My position on this matter is that you must have a “spotter” while doing tow behind sports. I can speak from experience that it can be difficult even with a “spotter” onboard to monitor those being towed behind a boat. It can be difficult for even the most experienced boat driver to be aware of what’s going on In front of the boat alone without taking their eyes off what’s Infront of you to look in a rear facing mirror. Waterskiing and tubing are some of the most popular tow sports. When experienced skiers are in the water waiting to be picked up the practice is to hold a ski up so that the tow and other boats can see them in the water. I do not agree with HB284 that would allow the driver to use a rearview mirror instead of a person.

Currently Ohio is at an all-time record number of boat registrations. These users have many different craft and their own special use needs. Including many that are new to being out on the water so let’s not make a situation that can be dangerous, worse for all those involved. Simply more eyes in the boat makes for a safer situation. As chairman of the Ohio Waterways Safety Council, my goal is keeping Ohio a Great State to enjoy a day on the water and make some great memories. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me.

Thanks,  
Capt. Dennis Mintus  
2362 Henn Hyde Rd.  
Warren, Ohio 44484  
Trumbull County  
C 330540-6367