



## LAKE ERIE MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION

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April 24, 2017

Annual  
Marine  
Exhibitions  
Produced by  
Lake Erie  
Marine  
Trades  
Association

RE: Senate Bill 34

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of Senate Bill 34.

### Mid-America Boat Show

Cleveland  
Ohio



My name is Bryan Ralston and I am the current President of the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association (LEMETA). Our association welcomes boat dealers, marina operators, watercraft manufacturers, clubs, financial entities, and other water-based organizations. LEMETA supports the more than 700 Ohio businesses in the marine industry statewide. More than 14,000 Ohioans work in the recreational boating industry and an additional 5,000 work in supporting industries. As of 2012, the total annual economic impact of boating to the state of Ohio is \$3.6 billion.

### Catawba Island Boat Show

Port Clinton  
Ohio



SB 34 would specify that schools do not open for instruction until after Labor Day. It is important to note that school districts are afforded flexibility from this if they host a public meeting to discuss starting prior to Labor Day.

### Michigan City In-Water Boat Show

Michigan City  
Indiana



Education and learning can also take place outside of a classroom. Ohio's boating education programs are one example of outdoor activities which students can enjoy during the Summer months, while also learning valuable lessons about boating safety and environmental impacts on Ohio waterways.

### North American In-Water Boat Show

Sandusky  
Ohio

LEMETA believes SB 34 will not only give families more opportunities to explore and enjoy of all the wonderful types of boating activities available in Ohio, it will also generate more business for boat dealerships, marinas, yacht clubs, gas docks, and retailers selling boating accessories. Additionally, it will make summer employment for high school students more steady and provide consistency to the businesses that hire them. When a boat dealer or marina owner hires a student to work in the summer, it is beneficial to that owner to have assurance that employees can work through the busiest time in the season.

This committee has likely heard that Michigan has required public schools to start after Labor Day since the 2006-07 school year. This initiative in Michigan has spurred economic growth in tourism, and has not decreased the value of a classroom education to our knowledge.



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Let's take advantage of the great weather for outdoor learning and the bad weather for indoor learning. Senate Bill 34 allows this to be accomplished!

Chairwoman Lehner, members of the Committee, thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

### **Mid-America Boat Show**

Cleveland  
Ohio



### **Catawba Island Boat Show**

Port Clinton  
Ohio



### **Michigan City In-Water Boat Show**

Michigan City  
Indiana



### **North American In-Water Boat Show**

Sandusky  
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