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From: **John Fechhelm** <johnf6831@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 31, 2025, 7:12 PM

Subject: Wake Boat Ordinance Opposition Letter

To: jrmichler@gmail.com <jrmichler@gmail.com>, twnwor@outlook.com <twnwor@outlook.com>

Jim,

I have attached a letter in opposition of the wake boat ordinance for the Town Of Worcester.
Please let me know if you are unable to open it.

Thanks,

John Fechhelm

March 31, 2025

Town of Worcester
W6895 Springs Dr.
Phillips, WI 54555

Subject: Wake Boat Ordinance

Dear Town of Worcester Board Members,

We are writing in opposition of the proposed ordinance to restrict the use of wake boats in the Town of Worcester. Our family has had a cabin on Solberg Lake for nearly 40 years. Solberg Lake in Phillips, Wisconsin has long been a treasured space for recreation, family gatherings, and enjoyment of water sports. As property owners and members of the lake association, we believe in maintaining a balanced approach that respects all users of this beautiful lake while preserving the activities that make it special.

Recently, efforts seek to impose a ban on wake boating. We understand and value the importance of lake preservation, but banning wake boating outright is an extreme measure that undermines the rights of lake users and ignores potential compromise solutions. False information about the sport and boats is being disseminated in a concerted effort to ignite fear in property owners about the health and longevity of the lake.

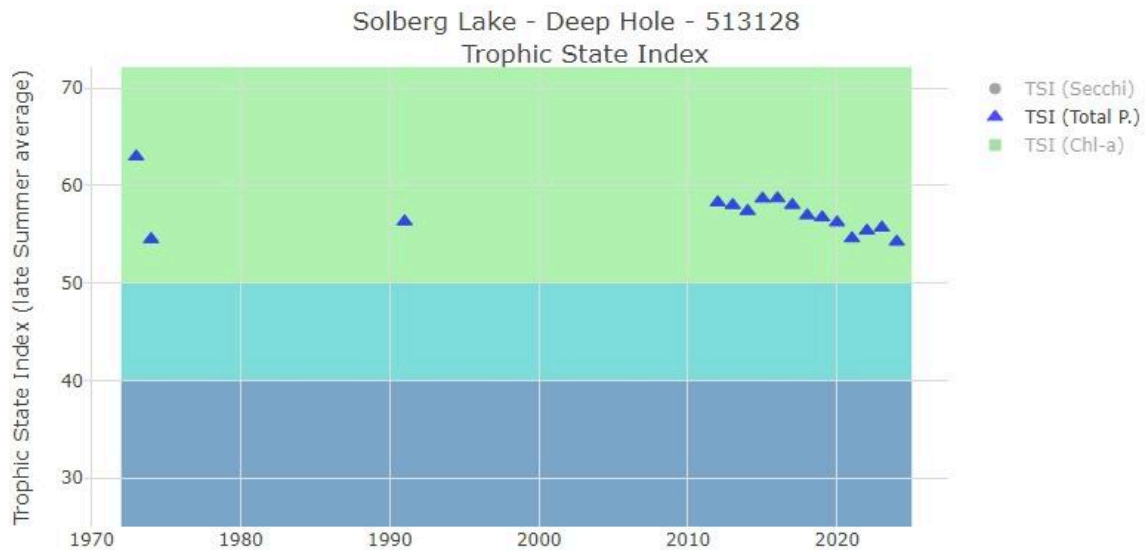
Wake boats have been villainized by critics claiming shore erosion, lakebed damage, spread of aquatic invasive species, and safety as their motivations to restrict or ban. These claims are exaggerations justified by incomplete information that often omits contrary data. Their claims come from what they categorize as scientific studies, when in fact it is questionable if those studies are scientifically based. They are biased and anecdotal at best. One such study was created by researchers in the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory. This study was never published in a scientific journal, nor did it follow peer review protocols. This study suffers from severe flaws in data collection and analysis. It fails to adhere to standard scientific conventions, and does not rise to the level required for policy decisions.

We have provided the Town of Worcester with several articles and videos that educate, and debunk many of the criticisms used to promote the efforts to create an ordinance to ban the use of wake boats. These have all been linked in the [Wake Boats tab](#) on the Town of Worcester website. [Debunking Wake Surfing Criticisms recording compressed.mp4 - Google Drive](#) is just one excellent example.

Water quality is a primary indication of a lake's sustainability and health. The water quality in Solberg Lake has been categorized "trophic" or "good" for many years according to samples

collected and then sent to the State Lab of Hygiene to be analyzed. The classification of “good” has not changed since wake boats have been introduced. Please see the graph below. (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website)

Trophic State



Trophic status compared to similar lakes

Wake boating fosters community, provides enjoyment for families, and supports local businesses that cater to water sports enthusiasts. Many local businesses depend on lake activities, including wake boating. Banning wake boats could have far-reaching economic consequences for Solberg Lake and surrounding areas. Instead of an outright ban, measures such as designated wake zones, time restrictions, or education programs for responsible boating can protect the lake while allowing all users to coexist. Solberg Lake is a shared resource, and decisions about its use should reflect the interests and rights of the entire community, not just select groups.

We urge the Town of Worcester to prioritize data-driven, equitable solutions over a wake boat ban. We advocate for a collaborative approach that prioritizes education to ensure responsible lake use while preserving recreational opportunities and protecting Solberg Lake’s ecosystem for future generations.

Sincerely,

Kim and John Fechhelm

Allen Williams (former President of Solberg Lake Association)

Mary Williams (former State Representative in the Assembly and former member of Solberg Lake Association)