



Friends of Lake Keowee Society

Dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of Lake Keowee and its watershed through advocacy, conservation and education.

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Senate Bill SB457 Announcement

In mid-January the new Wake Zone Bill, SB457, was introduced by Senators Alexander and Rice. The bill was quickly moved to the Fish, Game and Forestry subcommittee. If you recall, this is where last year's Wake Zone Bill stalled, not because they didn't care about it, but they just didn't have time due to the government shut-downs because of the on-going pandemic.

This is a new legislative year! The bill was pre-filed in November and the senate subcommittee will be voting on SB457 on **January 27th at 11 am**. It is imperative that the senators listed on the bill, and all senators in your district, hear from you regarding this bill. The fastest and most beneficial method of contacting them is by calling them. The next best method for contacting senators is writing and emailing.

FOLKS has included the contact information including phone numbers for the legislators listed on the bill on the following pages. Please call and email them. **They need to hear from you BEFORE January 27!**

Below is a sample letter, you can use it as a suggestion as you call/write/email your own comments.

-----Sample letter-----

Dear Senator _____ :

"Your support of SB457 is critical to the safety of kayakers and paddle boarders who paddle near our lake shores and in narrow coves, those who swim near shorelines and private docks, and those who anchor near the shore/islands to picnic and swim. In addition, this Bill will mitigate shoreline erosion and property damage due to excessive wave action. We are simply asking that you increase the No Wake zone in our lakes from its current 50 feet to those specified in SB457. Georgia already has boaters on their lakes slow to idle speed when they are within 100 feet of any dock or boat. Our other neighbor, North Carolina has a No Wake zone 150 feet away from docks and other boats.

Please support Bill (SB457) to amend Section 50-21-870, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to personal watercraft and boating safety by striking SECTION 1 and inserting:

SECTION 1. Section 50-21-870(B)(6) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(6)(a) operate a personal watercraft, specialty propcraft, or vessel while upon the waters of Lake Greenwood, Lake Hartwell, Lake Jocassee, Lake Keowee, Lake Marion, Lake Monticello, Lake Murray, Lake Robinson, Lake Russell, Lake Secession, Lake Thurmond, Lake Wateree, Fishing Creek Reservoir, Parr Reservoir, or the portion of the Savannah River from the Interstate 20 Savannah River Bridge to the New Savannah River Bluff Lock and Dam in excess of idle speed within 100 feet of a moored or anchored vessel, wharf, dock, bulkhead, pier, or person in the water;

(b) operate a personal watercraft, specialty propcraft, or vessel while upon the waters of Lake Wylie in excess of idle speed within 150 feet of a moored or anchored vessel, wharf, dock, bulkhead, pier, or person in the water; or

(c) operate a personal watercraft, specialty propcraft, or vessel while upon the all other waters of this State in excess of idle speed within 50 feet of a moored or an anchored vessel, wharf, dock, bulkhead, pier, or a person in the water, or within 100 yards of the Atlantic Ocean coast line. The prohibitions contained in this item (6) subitem do not apply to an unoccupied, moored vessel or watercraft;”

Thank you for your support of this important matter."

Name

Address

Contact information for SC Legislators:

[George E. "Chip" Campsen, III, Chairman](#)

Chairman, Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee

Republican – Charleston, District 43 - Beaufort, Charleston & Colleton Counties

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[Tom Young, Jr.](#)

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