

September 16, 2009

Kootenai County Board of Commissioners
451 Government Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Dear County Commissioners,

My name is Paul L Morton, my wife and I, Patsy A Morton, reside at 1158 Rocky Road, Rathdrum, ID 83858.

We have just been informed of the movement of one or more individuals to rescind the "No wake zone" at Bayview, Idaho. As a boat owner and operator (we trailer our boat to Bayview), we firmly oppose this proposed change.

Why change the status of the "No wake zone," a system that has historically provided an important safety feature for all, to accommodate one or a few individuals?

As a former Marine Deputy for the Orange County Sheriffs Department, Orlando, Florida, and a former Marine Patrol Officer of the Florida Marine Patrol, State of Florida (Key Largo, Fl), I can recommend from experience the importance of the "No wake zone."

As you well know, Bayview, Lake Pend 'Oreille is a small quite community, which explodes into a bustling community during summer water activities. The Bay in summer becomes a mixture of large yachts to the smallest of water craft, such as canoes, kayaks, inflatables, and youth floating on inner tubes.

To remove the "No wake zone," I must tell you, will create an atmosphere of utter confusion, speeding, noise pollution, water craft large and small, among small non-maneuverable water craft and toys, thus leading to eventual injuries and loss of life.

Coupled with these eventual water accidents and drownings is the civil liability and civil actions that are sure to occur among boat owners, and which may include civil actions against Kootenai County.

Additionally, I can tell from experience the best constructed docks, pilings, float houses, and sea walls, and including moored water craft cannot withstand the constant and repeated thrashing and pounding of the many water craft (wakes) large and small before damage occurs or complete destruction.

Although operation of power boats at a no wake speed may be a small inconvenience through the bay, it also allows the individual to enjoy the magnificent beauty of this natural bay, its waters, the tranquil peaceful village image, surrounding mountains, and the unforgettable experience of this setting.

I say to the opponents of the Bayview “No wake zone” consider “stopping and smelling the roses.” “Life is short.”

In conclusion, please – Kootenai County Commissioners – DO NOT REMOVE the time tested “no wake zone.”

Sincerely,

Paul & Patsy Morton