

March 2, 2024

Dear Shadow Lake Association,

Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) has worked tirelessly for the past three years to protect Vermont's inland lakes and ponds from the threat of wake boats and wake sports. **The purpose of this letter is to seek your lake's financial support for these efforts.**

Despite multiple requests throughout the rulemaking process, RWVL was refused direct contact with ANR Secretary Julie Moore. To ensure key arguments were heard during the final LCAR portion of rulemaking, it became necessary for RWVL to engage a lobbyist. [Warren Coleman](#), an attorney with MMR, LLC and former Vermont Agency of Natural Resources environmental litigation attorney, deputy general counsel, and general counsel, became an indispensable member of our team. As we continue to work to have critical, stronger statewide legislation enacted, his assistance will be essential.

As you probably know, the final step in the Agency of Natural Resources' (ANR) rulemaking process was completed on February 15, when the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) approved ANR's proposed rule. To a limited extent, Vermont can be proud of this important *first-in-the-nation* statewide rule regulating wake sports on Vermont's inland lakes and ponds.

**The new ANR rule helps protect your lake, your lake association members, and others who live on or near or otherwise enjoy Shadow Lake.** This rule prohibits wake sports on Vermont's smallest 43 lakes that allow motorized watercraft and regulates their use on the remaining 30 lakes where wake sports will be permitted. The Home Lake provision of the rule will help prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species from lake to lake.



1) Protects Vermont's smallest 43 lakes allowing motorized watercraft by eliminating wake sports altogether.



2) Places operational restrictions on the remaining 30 lakes allowing wake sports.



3) Protects lake-to-lake wake boat ballast spread of AIS in all 73 lakes allowing motorized watercraft



While not sufficient, we anticipate the rule will go into effect *this summer* and immediately offer a degree of protection for the environment and the safety of other users. (See our February 16 RWVL Newsletter, "[LCAR Approves First in the Nation Rule to Manage Wake Boats/Sports in Vermont](#)").

Importantly, this is *only* our first step. RWVL will now assist interested lakes and ponds where wake sports are permitted under the new rule to petition ANR to prohibit wake sports on their lakes. And we are not stopping there, we are developing a strategy for *much* stronger statewide protection through legislation.

**RWVL has not asked for financial support during this 3-year crusade, but we are asking for your help now. We need to raise \$10,000 by March 31** to meet our current financial obligations; we are only

halfway there. Engaging Warren during the legislative campaign will require additional support. Association and individual contributions of \$100, \$250, \$500, or more will be needed.

**We ask your lake association to please consider a contribution** to help fund efforts to fully protect all of Vermont's inland lakes and ponds.

***To donate: Please send your check made out to "Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes, Inc."***  
**to:**

Jim Clemons, RWVL Treasurer  
505 Guyette Road,  
East Montpelier, VT 05651.

(RWVL is a 401(c)4 nonprofit corporation. As a lobbying organization contributions are not tax deductible.)

Thank you in advance for your support of this critically important statewide effort!

For Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes

Jenifer Andrews, Shadow Lake, Glover

Christine Cano, Caspian Lake, Greensboro and Shadow Lake, Glover

Jim Clemons, Great Averill Lake, E. Montpelier

Meg Handler, Lake Iroquois, Hinesburg

Diane Lehder, Willoughby Lake, Westmore

Dani Sharpe, Lake Iroquois, Hinesburg

Tom Ward, Lake Fairlee, Thetford Center

Jack Widness, Lake Raponda, Wilmington