



**To:** Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government  
Sen. Cory Tomczyk, Chair

**From:** Bill Elliott, President & CEO

**Date:** February 19, 2026

**Re:** Oppose SB 1025 relating to: the regulation of wakesurfing and providing a penalty

On behalf of the approximately 600 members of the Wisconsin Hotel & Lodging Association, we urge you to **oppose Senate Bill 1025**, which aims to regulate wakesurfing on Wisconsin's waterways.

While we appreciate the goal of establishing safety standards, our primary concern is that this bill could restrict local control. This lack of local flexibility could significantly harm resorts and other lakeside lodging facilities across Wisconsin.

Every year, thousands of visitors choose Wisconsin's beautiful lakes and rivers for their vacations. Whether it's for a peaceful family day swimming at the beach, fishing, enjoying a pontoon ride, or kayaking, the increasing size and speed of wake boats are becoming more disruptive to our guests. Furthermore, the serious issue of shoreline erosion poses many negative consequences for our businesses.

We are aware of another proposal, **SB 1024**, which addresses this complex topic. We remain neutral on SB 1024 because it incorporates the essential local control options that we support. However, we believe that further discussion is needed on other requirements, such as shoreline setback and water depth.

We would welcome the chance to participate in the conversation to develop legislation that protects our guests, supports wakesurfing enthusiasts, and sustains Wisconsin's vital tourism economy.