ENHANCED WAKE REGULATIONS

PRESENTED BY THE LAND CONSERVATION AND ZONING COMMITTEES

WHEREAS, the lakes of Douglas County, Wisconsin are integral to the recreational base of the economy in Douglas County, and

WHEREAS, legislation has been proposed to regulate wake surfing and wakeboarding, and

WHEREAS, the legislation as currently written fails to set minimum standards for the protection of private property, public safety and enjoyment, and aquatic environments, and

WHEREAS, the legislation fails to include a standard related to wake depth that would protect water quality in lakes from scouring by enhanced wakes, and

WHEREAS, the legislation repeats standards already in place in other statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors does recommend that the Wisconsin Legislature engage in meaningful discussions to pass standards that balance the right of everyone to recreate on waters of the State of Wisconsin, by affirming that Wisconsin’s local governments deserve local control to set their own standards beyond state minimums, of at least 700 feet from the shore, and to prohibit enhanced wake creation in waters shallower than at least 30 feet in depth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all counties, Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Town Association, Wisconsin Lakes, Wisconsin Land & Water, the legislature, Governor, Secretary of the DNR and Natural Resources Board.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2024.

Committee Action: Unanimous
Fiscal Note: None

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Hendrickson, to adopt. Motion carried.