

July 9, 2019

Whatcom County Council Members,

This letter is to express my opposition to Ordinance #2019-046 Amending Whatcom County Code Chapters 11.16 and 11.20 to Protect Lake Samish Water Quality and Lake Samish Shoreline Properties enacted June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

I've lived and water skied on Lake Samish for 25 years. During that time, neither I nor any of my neighbors on the lake with whom I ski have ever received complaints regarding ski boat wakes. Only in the past several years have I and other lake residence become concerned with dock damage and shoreline erosion caused by those boats developed for bigger displacement of water for the purpose of wake-boarding and surfing. However, the recent amendments extending the no-wake zone to 300' around the entire lake shore and establishing a special no-wake zone east of the County bridge adversely affect all motorized boats even though the problem wakes are generated by only a small portion of boating activity.

I'd like to specifically address the amendment establishing a new no-wake zone extending from the County bridge #107 to a point almost 3000' East. The argument for this amendment used congestion, safety and shoreline erosion undercutting the roadway as reasons. I agree with that assessment, but the area this new zone encompasses is excessive at ~2800' East of the bridge. The area of roadway that is currently being undercut by erosion only extends to a point on W Lake Samish Dr just west of 855 W Lake Samish Dr. On North Lake Samish Dr., the potential erosion of roadway would extend only to an area west of 778 N. Lake Samish Dr. A line drawn between these two locations would be approximately 1800' from the County bridge, not 2800', an area plenty large enough to mitigate congestion, erosion, and safety concerns. I've included a map showing the new/current location of the "No-Wake" buoys, the area of erosion along W. Lake Samish Dr., and my proposed no-wake zone boundary. (suggested coordinates = North-South line of 122°24'16"West instead of the Ordinance coordinates of 122°24'00"West)

If congestion and safety are indeed the concerns that caused the implementation of this no-wake zone, are you also going to extend another no-wake zone the same distance on the West side of the bridge into the small basin where the public County Park is located? Because that basin is certainly congested and safe boating can already be a problem there. I'm certainly not advocating for that, as it would severely restrict recreational usage - along with the new 300' shoreline no wake zone - of an already small but popular basin which becomes severely congested on summer weekends. My point is, that this decision doesn't appear to have been made with much forethought for how it could or should impact residents and users.

The proponents of these changes at the June 4th Council Meeting numbered fewer than 1% of the lake's population and do NOT represent the views of the majority of Lake Samish community. Your decision at that meeting was made based on the requests of a handful of residents and without any consideration or input from those not in favor of the amendments.

I'd like to see the Council backup and address the root of the problem rather than place a band-aid on it that penalizes those who aren't the cause. The problem is the large wakes caused by a small, but increasing number of certain boat types and activities. Some solutions could be: 1) a modest extension of the shoreline no-wake zone for all boats to 200' but not 300' as amended, and possibly an extended distance of 300' for larger wake producing boats, 2) establishing a special no-wake zone near the bridge larger than the previous zone, but less than the newly amended 2800' zone, 3) restrictions on certain boats by type, size, weight and/or equipment (i.e. ballast tanks), 4) a combination of these or other solutions developed through stakeholder discussions and feedback, all of which should be combined with user education programs. Regardless of various thoughts and opinions on what the solution should be, the decisions made on June 4<sup>th</sup> were premature and made without adequate information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharon Cody  
316 W Lake Samish Dr #5  
Bellingham, WA 98229