

July 20, 2026

The Honorable Harriet Hageman  
Chairwoman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Val Hoyle  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee  
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Hageman and Ranking Member Hoyle:

On behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), I am writing to express our industry's enthusiastic support for two bills that your subcommittee is examining: H.R. 7332 *Whale CHARTS Act of 2026* and H.R. 8876 *Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Act of 2026*. Taken together, these bipartisan bills will make boating on American waterways safer, support shared conservation efforts across the nation, and ensure access to our waterways are preserved for generations to come.

NMMA is the leading recreational marine trade association in North America, representing more than 1,300 manufacturers of boats, engines, trailers, and marine accessories. Recreational boating has a \$230 billion economic impact, supporting more than 812,000 jobs and 36,000 businesses across the country. Boating and fishing are the largest part of the \$1.3 trillion outdoor recreation economy, supporting over 5 million jobs across the nation.

Rep. Matsui's H.R. 7332, the *Whale CHARTS Act of 2026*, will take meaningful action to better monitor whale movements, reduce vessel strikes, and improve access to our oceans. In 2024, the Vessel Strike Avoidance Fund was established to accelerate technologies to detect and communicate the location of marine mammals, yet it requires consistent authority and reliable funding to succeed. This bill would ensure that NOAA continues its partnership with key technology experts and prioritizes supporting and expanding this fund to ensure practical, outcome-driven solutions are implemented at scale.

Rep. Walberg's H.R. 8876, the *Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Act of 2026*, takes an important step toward modernizing our federal response; strengthening state-led management, and helping prevent costly clean up efforts before aquatic invasive species can damage fisheries, boating access, and the outdoor recreation economy. The bill also includes provisions related to watercraft inspection and decontamination planning, including developing reciprocal recognition of watercraft inspections, so boaters who have already been cleared are not unnecessarily delayed when accessing the water. Managing and preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species is a top priority for recreational marine manufacturers.

Thank you again for working together to put forward H.R. 7332 and H.R. 8876. Millions of Americans rely on access to public waters for outdoor recreation and these activities support hundreds of thousands of jobs and small businesses. We strongly support these bills and will continue collaborating with the Committee to support critical conservation measures and ensure Americans continue having safe and reliable access to our waterways for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Clayton Crabtree  
Interim Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations