

**From:** Eric Schnell  
**To:** [HTP Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2320 Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, March 02, 2017 9:19:32 PM

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Dear Committee on Transportation Policy,

I am writing to express concern re: Section 11 of proposed HB2320 (Non-Motorized Watercraft).

As a recreational kiteboarder who spends a lot of time concerned about my safety, I worry that the mandate to wear a Marine-Board approved PFD would paradoxically be \*less\* safe than the flotation vests that kiteboarders currently wear. Most "Board-Approved" PFDs have buckles and straps and are cut to a shape that makes them incompatible with - and likely to get tangled with- the kite lines that are used to power kite board movement.

If a buckle were to get snagged on a line, it could cause the rider to lose control of the kite and possibly be fatal!

Most kite-specific flotation vests are not "board approved" but do have a great amount of flotation, and most importantly, are very specifically designed to be both safe on impact (in case of fall) and to fit snugly with NO loose bits/buckles/straps.

I imagine that the most at-risk folks would actually be beginners, who are trying to follow the rules, and get themselves into a life-threatening situation because the Marine Board-approved PFDs actually make the sport much more dangerous.

Please amend/revise the ruling to either allow for kite-specific (or "sport-specific") flotation devices/vests or to remove this requirement entirely for sports like kiteboarding (as the kite itself is inflated and can be used for rescue...)

Thanks,

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