



## *Orange Beach Fishing Association*

P. O. Box 1202  
Orange Beach, AL 36561-1202  
Phone: 251.981.2300  
[www.gulffishing.net](http://www.gulffishing.net)

August 15, 2007

United States Senate, The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0103  
DC Fax: 202-224-3416

Dear Mr. Shelby,

OBFA members urge you to support H.R. 2550 "The Recreational Boating Act of 2007." There are an estimated 18 million recreational boats in the country, offering a great way of life to boaters and more than 850,000 jobs nationwide in the marine industry. H.R. 2550 is legislation that will keep boating intact. I urge you to actively support this legislation. This legislation would allow boating to continue in this country as a viable, healthy, family pastime, instead of being saddled with new regulations and permit requirements intended for commercial ships with ballast water tanks.

In 2006, a U.S. District Court decision struck down a 34-year permit exemption for recreational boats within the Clean Water Act. EPA has appealed the District Court decision and asked for reconsideration of the breadth of the court's decision and the imposed timetable. The case will be heard in August in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit. The court does not have a deadline for a ruling.

As a result, unless H.R. 2550 is passed, the EPA is required to develop and implement a permitting system for all boats in the U.S. (no matter the size or type) by September 30, 2008.

H.R. 2550 does not weaken or reverse any current environmental regulations. It simply allows boats to be operated the same way they are being operated this year, without an onerous and costly permit system.

Representative Gene Taylor (MS) along with co-sponsor Representatives Aderholt (AL), Baker (LA), Bartlett (MD), Buchanan (FL), Camp (MI), Drake (VA), Duncan (TN), Ehlers (MI), Filner (CA), Hoekstra (MI), McCotter (MI), Miller (MI), Miller (FL), Paul (TX), Putnam (FL), Rangel (NY), Sessions (TX), and Space (OH) have introduced this most important bill. We respectfully request that you sign on as a cosponsor and work to get this legislation passed prior to the court's deadline.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Bobbi M. Walker*

Bobbi M. Walker  
President

BMW/sim



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August 15, 2007

United States Senate, The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
335 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0104  
DC Fax: 202-224-3149

Dear Mr. Sessions,

OBFA members urge you to support H.R. 2550 "The Recreational Boating Act of 2007." There are an estimated 18 million recreational boats in the country, offering a great way of life to boaters and more than 850,000 jobs nationwide in the marine industry. H.R. 2550 is legislation that will keep boating intact. I urge you to actively support this legislation. This legislation would allow boating to continue in this country as a viable, healthy, family pastime, instead of being saddled with new regulations and permit requirements intended for commercial ships with ballast water tanks.

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August 15, 2007

United States House of Representatives, The Honorable Jo Bonner  
422 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0101  
DC Fax: 202-225-0562

Dear Mr. Bonner,

OBFA members urge you to support H.R. 2550 "The Recreational Boating Act of 2007." There are an estimated 18 million recreational boats in the country, offering a great way of life to boaters and more than 850,000 jobs nationwide in the marine industry. H.R. 2550 is legislation that will keep boating intact. I urge you to actively support this legislation. This legislation would allow boating to continue in this country as a viable, healthy, family pastime, instead of being saddled with new regulations and permit requirements intended for commercial ships with ballast water tanks.

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