



William E. Wagner, Jr.
Director of Public
Safety/Fire Chief

Northfield Township Public Safety

8350 Main Street, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189
Fire: 734-449-2385 • Fax: 734-449-2521
Police: 734-449-9911 • Fax: 734-449-0511
www.twp.northfield.mi.us



Timothy Greene
Lieutenant
Police Operations

September 3, 2014

RE: HB5563 Abandoned Watercraft

The Honorable Andrea LaFontaine
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative LaFontaine,

It has come to our attention that there is pending legislation regarding the disposal of abandoned watercraft. As a department with jurisdiction over several waterways and lakes, we would like to first thank the state for recognizing the need to amend current legislation and, second, offer some constructive opinion on how this process could be simplified from a law enforcement perspective.

As you know, state law regarding abandoned property and watercraft differs a great deal from that of abandoned vehicles. However, in our opinion, there needs to be a more efficient way to process and dispose of unclaimed watercraft. The process for disposing of abandoned vehicles is quite simple and easily administered at a law enforcement level. It would seem appropriate for the disposal of watercraft to be handled in a similar manor, as well as addressing some clearer statutory authority for disposing of the vessels. The current process for abandoned watercraft is considerably more taxing and time consuming for the tow companies and local police departments than the process for abandoned vehicles and we would definitely be in favor of streamlining this process.

We hope that you take this into consideration when discussing amendments to current legislation. We would be happy to discuss this further if feedback is welcomed from local police agencies.

Respectfully,

Lt Tim Greene
Commander of Police Operations