



WESTERN STATES BOATING ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION 2016-1

IN SUPPORT OF STATE OVER FEDERAL POLICY INTERVENTIONS

WHEREAS, with the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 Congress intended that the states assume the greater share of responsibility for recreational boating safety; and

WHEREAS, by doing so, Congress recognized the states as being in the best position to identify recreational boating safety concerns applicable to their states and determine the need and strategies for addressing those concerns; and

WHEREAS, policy interventions are known to be a very effective method of improving public health outcomes particularly when generated by and at the community level; and

WHEREAS, per Western States Boating Administrators Association (WSBAA) resolution 97-2, mandatory education and mandatory life jacket wear are best left to the discretion of individual states and WSBAA will resist any movement towards any federal mandate requiring states to initiate such programs; and

WHEREAS, WSBAA resolution 2003-5 recommends that western states pursue state legislation requiring life jacket wear on recreational vessels 21 feet and under;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Western States Boating Administrators Association, meeting this 11th day of May, 2016 in Monterey, California does hereby again encourage the U.S. Coast Guard to refrain from any effort to tie state RBS grant funding to state level policy interventions such as mandatory education or mandatory life jacket wear.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Dan Maxim, chair of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) and Jeff Ludwig, Alternate Designated Federal Officer for NBSAC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, and to Darren Rider, President of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators for their consideration and appropriate action.

May 11, 2016

Wade Alonzo, President