



Government Affairs

880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, VA 22304

147 Old Solomons Island Road, Suite 508
Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone: (703) 461-2878 x8363 Fax: (410) 224-3807

Website: www.BoatUS.com/gov

Email: govtaffairs@BoatUS.com

June 1, 2011

The Honorable Rick Perry
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Perry:

I am writing to ask that you exercise your line-item veto authority and reject section 2 of Senate Bill 408, legislation that would ban the use of airboats on parts of the Brazos River.

As the nation's largest organization of recreational boaters, with over 500,000 members nationwide and some 15,000 in Texas, we are very concerned when one type of watercraft is singled out for special restriction. Many owners of conventional boats in your state also use airboats to pursue healthy, family oriented activities on the water. In addition, in shallow water areas like the remote section of the Brazos the proposed law would cover, airboats are often utilized for such essential activities as water quality monitoring and search-and-rescue operations because of their maneuverability and low environmental impact.

We also understand that this provision of S.B. 408 received little public debate and that there is no credible scientific evidence that airboats cause any environmental damage to the river's water quality or its natural resources. According to press accounts, your own Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife expressed "no opinion" on the bill. Until such time as adequate studies and debate take place these restrictions should be tabled.

Again, we urge you to reject section 2 of Senate Bill 408. Please let us know if we can provide additional information regarding this or any other recreational boating issues.

Sincerely,

Margaret Podlich
Vice President
BoatU.S. Government Affairs