

room for such installation. Finally, long offshore trips, where pumping equipment is not available, could no longer be a part of the boat owners' pleasure. Gentlemen, don't put diapers on the sea gulls to solve a problem predominantly created by municipal and industry pollution in the waters of our country. It won't work.

The boating public, estimated at 40 million Americans, wants clean waters. This boating public also realizes that less than 5 percent of more than 8 million boats in use today have toilet facilities on board. They also know that in terms of pollution, that caused by recreational boats is quite insignificant, and no justification for the overkill approach reflected in legislation pending before the Congress.

NAEBM STATEMENT OF BASIC PRINCIPLES

Our association has so far taken no formal position regarding H.R. 13923. However, over a year ago our board of directors approved a statement of basic principles relating to waste disposal from small boats. That statement reads:

While recognizing that the pollution of waterways caused by recreational boats is minute in terms of the total water pollution problem, the NAEBM endorses efforts of the boating industry and Government agencies, Federal and State, to reduce such pollution as rapidly as technology and costs to boat owners will permit.

In this connection, the NAEBM supports the studies and efforts of NASBLA to arrive at uniform standards through a uniform State pollution control law.

After careful review of the entire problem, and with due regard to the interests of recreational boat owners, boat builders, and related segments of this industry, NAEBM recommends the following principles as fundamental guidelines in the formulation of public policy in this area:

(1) Waste disposal from small pleasure craft constitutes only a minor factor in the overall problem of water pollution and presents problems of control totally different from land-caused pollution or waste disposal from commercial vessels.

(2) Control of waste disposal devices for pleasure craft should be reasonably uniform on all waterways, coastal or interior, and should be sufficiently flexible to encourage continued technical improvement.

(3) In prescribing waste disposal devices for small pleasure craft, public authorities should give equal attention to potential hazards to boat users and to the general public. Appropriate safety measures are too frequently overlooked in plans designed with the sole objective of reducing pollution.

(4) NAEBM believes that the best approach to feasible control of waste disposal is through the development of uniform Federal Standards in cooperation with State Boating Law Administrators and that administration and enforcement of such Standards should be accomplished in the same manner as now provided in the Federal Boating Act of 1958—the Bonner Act. NAEBM therefore urges consideration of appropriate amendments to the Bonner Act to accomplish these basic objectives with authority to be vested in the Department of Transportation to formulate appropriate standards in cooperation with other Federal and State agencies interested in pollution and safety measures for recreational craft. Such standards should be developed with the cooperation of independent, non-governmental organizations experienced in recreational boat safety problems.

On behalf of NAEBM I appreciate the invitation of your committee to appear here today. I regret that we cannot support H.R. 13923 as now written but I can assure you that experts within our industry and on the staff of our association will be available to assist the committee in developing legislation which in our judgment would be more consistent with existing boating laws and regulations and more effective in coping with the problem.