From: Magee, Wahed

To: <a href="mailto:eat@winstoncashatt.com">eat@winstoncashatt.com</a>; <a href="mailto:lanzce@lgdproperties.com">lanzce@lgdproperties.com</a>; <a href="mailto:cindy.richardson@rrnorthwest.com">cindy.richardson@rrnorthwest.com</a>;

john@magnusononline.com; jrichards@idl.idaho.gov; Kayleen Richter; AFuson@idl.idaho.gov; Marde Mensinger;

kromine@idl.idaho.gov; rking@idl.idaho.gov; kdawson@idl.idaho.gov; Filings; Leslie Hayes

**Cc:** <u>kcso@kcgov.us;</u> <u>peter.smith@fennemorelaw.com</u>

Subject: CONCERNED CITIZEN AGAINST ADDITIONAL BOAT SLIPS

**Date:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 4:18:05 PM

Attachments: 342 Julied

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

## To those whom this concerns,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed addition of 74 boat slips at Atlas/River's Edge (Permit #L95S6163A), as well as any further expansion, such as the upcoming Greensferry permit. I am a Spokane River waterfront property owner on Harbor Island, and I see firsthand the mounting safety, congestion, and environmental concerns caused by the current level of boat and personal watercraft activity.

The Spokane River is already under immense pressure. From daily observation, I can attest to the high number of boats and PWCs operating at fast speeds in a narrow, constrained waterway. This presents clear safety hazards, especially in areas with limited sightlines and residential access points. More importantly, the increased wake and traffic are accelerating shoreline erosion, an issue I and many others on Harbor Island are actively struggling to address. I recently consulted a contractor to explore costly mitigation strategies just to preserve my riverbank from further damage.

As someone who personally works as a Police Captain with over 20 years of experience, I will attest that I have seen the congestion firsthand and witnessed numerous instances where personal watercraft and boats come uncomfortably close to one another in front of my home on Harbor Island. Specially as it relates to the Spokane River, I have also observed personal watercraft traveling near people swimming or paddling in kayaks and paddleboards, many of whom are not easily visible on the water. The thought of adding all these new slips and therefore more watercraft only magnifies the existing safety issues. I am also aware of staffing shortages within the Sheriff's Office, and they simply do not have the resources to properly enforce safe boating regulations on the waterway every day all day. This lack of enforcement capacity (staffing is a widespread issue in law enforcement) makes the situation even more concerning. I am genuinely worried for everyone's safety, and it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured. From my personal law enforcement experience, I have seen how increased traffic on waterways leads to people getting severely injured and/or killed. Not to mention the quality of life issues for those who want to enjoy a safe environment on the waterway.

The fact that both the Kootenai County Sheriff and Marine Deputy Sergeant Ryan Miller have issued statements opposing this development based on safety and geography should carry significant weight in your decision. If law enforcement is warning against it, it is time to pause and listen. That alone should be enough to halt new slip approvals until further study is completed.

I strongly urge the IDL to suspend further permits until a comprehensive study is completed to assess the Spokane River's maximum carrying capacity, safety risks, shoreline erosion, and long-term ecological sustainability. Growth is inevitable and can be positive when it is responsibly managed, but the unchecked commercialization of our river, often for the benefit of investors, is placing both people and cherished natural resources at risk.

Finally, I encourage formal outreach to riverfront property owners who are most directly impacted. Many residents I have spoken with are unaware of these proposed changes and deserve a voice in decisions that affect their safety, property, and quality of life.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would ask that you look at the attached document, as I am a member of Concerned Citizens Against Additional 100 Boat Slips Added to Templins Resort on Spokane River INC.

Sincerely, Wahed (Wally) Magee 6339 W. Harbor Drive Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 208-557-8775