

DEPT. OF LANDS

OCT 03 2025

BOISE, IDAHO

Dear Dustin Miller, Idaho Dept of Lands Director,

I am writing as a Kootenai County resident living along the Spokane River and as a member of Concerned Citizens Protecting the Spokane River to ask for your leadership in protecting the Spokane River.

My concern is how the continued approval of new community dock slips, threaten the health, safety, and future of the river and our community. Currently there are requests for approvals for a community dock at The River's Edge Apartments for 74 boat slips; a community dock at The Estates at Waterstone HOA for 24 boat slips. This is in addition to 120+ new boat slips being added to Templin's marina.

The Spokane River is already overburdened with boat traffic and the addition of more slips will:

- Endanger private property along the river
- Compromise navigation and safety for all boaters
- Harm fish and wildlife habitat and aquatic life
- Interfere with recreational use of the river
- Degrade overall water quality

Importantly, these docks provide no demonstrated navigational or economic necessity that outweighs the significant risks. The State of Idaho must determine the maximum carrying capacity of the Spokane river before allowing any additional encroachments. Without such a study and pause in approvals, property will be destroyed, the environment degraded, and accidents—including serious injury or fatalities—will become more likely.

Even the Kootenai County Sheriff has acknowledged that a "No Wake Zone" along the entire river may become necessary as a safety measure. Such a restriction would drastically reduce property values and limit the use of the river for all.

I respectfully urge you to support and advocate for immediate legislative and administrative action to **pause all approvals of additional commercial and community dock slips on the Spokane River until a comprehensive carrying capacity study is completed.**

Thank you for your service to our community and for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Dirk and Mary Lee Linton
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Handwritten signature of Mary Lee Linton in blue ink.