



CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA



Marc-André Morin

Laurentides-Labelle  
marc-andré.morin@parl.gc.ca

Ottawa, July 5th 2013

**Motion M-441 – Motion to carry out a review of the  
Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations**

Dear Sir/Madam:

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to you to ask for your support for the motion M-441 that I introduced in the House of Commons on April 19 to facilitate the management of vessels on our lakes and rivers. Together with New Democrat Transport, infrastructure and community critic, Olivia Chow, I strongly believe that this motion will better regulate the use of waters in your municipality.

Motion M-441 calls on the government to review the *Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations* (Regulations) to give a faster, more effective and more predictable tool to municipalities who want to better regulate the waters on their territory, whether to improve how waters are managed, public safety, or the protection of the environment.

The text of the motion is as follows:

*That, in the opinion of this House, the government should, following consultations with provinces, territories, municipalities, and First Nations, carry out a review of the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations with the objective of facilitating and accelerating the process allowing local administrations to request restrictions regarding the use of vessels on certain waters, in order to improve how waters are managed, public safety, and the protection of the environment.*

*Ottawa*

Bureau 663, Édifice de la Confédération  
Chambre des communes, Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6



Marc-André Morin

Laurentides-Labelle

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As you may know, article 4 of the Regulations, enacted under the *Canada Shipping Act*, imposes restrictions on boating on waters or parts of waters listed in its schedules. Municipalities are able to request, through the provincial government, that the federal government designate a body of water or impose additional restrictions. To do so, municipal authorities must follow the procedure established by Transport Canada in the *Local Authorities' Guide to Boating Restriction Regulations* (Guide).

Many stakeholders and municipalities in my constituency of Laurentides-Labelle are unhappy with the procedure, which they find long, complex and costly. A number of municipalities are discouraged and have given up. In some communities, the Guide's requirements have created conflict and tension.

We therefore believe that a review of the regulatory process and the resources allocated to its management could, in the short term, give municipalities more control over the use of motorboats on their waters and help social harmony in communities. The idea is not to prevent recreational boating but to allow the community to better regulate it.

I am asking you to support my motion by having your local council or board pass a resolution in favour of it. I have also enclosed a petition in support of Motion M-441. I invite you to sign it and distribute it in your network.

I would also be happy to hear your thoughts on this matter. What do you think about the process? Do not hesitate to contact me at my parliamentary office at 613-992-2289 regarding your experience on water management in your municipality.

Sincerely,

Marc-André Morin  
MP, Laurentides-Labelle

Olivia Chow  
MP, Trinity-Spadina  
Transport, Infrastructure and Communities Critic

*Ottawa*

**PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
Facilitate the management of boats on our lakes and rivers

- the process allowing municipalities to request restrictions on waterways to Transport Canada is lengthy, complex and expensive;
- the bureaucratic burden has opened the door to disputes and tensions in some communities and has been repeatedly criticized by municipalities;
- municipal governments are closest to the citizens who are affected and thus best placed to make effective decisions about the management of waterways in their jurisdiction; and
- simplifying the procedure would improve how waterways are managed, public safety and the protection of the environment, and would allay local conflicts over the use of lakes and other waterways.

THEREFORE, we, the undersigned, citizens of Canada call upon the House of Commons to support motion M-441, tabled by Marc-André Morin, MP, proposing a review of the *Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations* to ensure better management of waterways.

[illegible]

Return postage free to Marc-André Morin, MP for Laurentides-Labelle, House of Commons, Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6

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