

From: Charles Whitehair

To: ddeen@leg.state.vt.us

Sent: Friday, February 27, 2015 12:00 PM

Subject: Felt Soled Wading Boot Ban

Good morning Rep. Deen,

I am contacting you to encourage the House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources which you chair to retract the law prohibiting the use of felt soled wading boots in Vermont. This law was enacted in hopes of stopping the spread of didymosphenia geminata (didymo) in Vermont waters. It is now believed that didymo has historically been present in Vermont waters and that felt soled wading boots have little if any impact on the presence of didymo in Vermont waters. The experts at the Department of Fish and Wildlife are of the opinion that felt soles do not spread didymo. However this ban has created a serious safety hazard in Vermont streams as the alternatives to felt soles are not as effective in providing secure footing in many streams. This is a particular concern to those of who have reached our senior years. Please remove the Vermont ban on felt soled wading boots.

Thank you

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