

Hello Representative:

I am writing to ask that you vote **against** HB 4409 and HB 4138, which both seek to prevent boaters from wakesurfing along a 20-mile stretch of the Willamette River. This is a very controversial issue that addresses state jurisdiction, homeowner concerns and the right of boaters to use public waters. I'm asking you to please act to delay further consideration of these bills until 2019, when there is time for the legislature to thoroughly debate the significant impact of the restricted access, and the merit of expanding the powers of the state Marine Board.

Connelly Skis, Inc. manufactures many of the accessories bought by wakesurfers and wakeboarders. They are sold by boat dealers, big-box stores and specialty sports shops that depend upon those purchases for their livelihood. The economic impact of these bills would be significant because the ban called for in HB 4409 would reduce the opportunity to wakesurf and wakeboard for the local stores.

HB 4409 not only bans wakesurfing and wakeboarding, but goes so far as to require ballasted boats, and only ballasted boats, to go at no-wake speed throughout the 20-mile section of the river affected by the ban even though they are not wakesurfing or wakeboarding. Right now the Marine Board has no jurisdiction over erosion issues. HB 4138 gives it new responsibilities regarding shore erosion that it never has had and has no prior experience assessing.

To my knowledge, there has not been an effort to study the impact of wake surfing on these shorelines.

These bills deserve close scrutiny and a robust debate by the legislature. I encourage you to delay any action on this bill until the longer 2019 session, which is better suited to address such controversial bills.

It has been my experience that when all stakeholders are given the opportunity to meet, the result can be options that ensure that the rights of all involved are respected and addressed. However, this is the first time this bill has come before the legislature. There is little time during the short session for this kind of cooperative effort. Please vote against HB 4409 and HB 4409 and provide an opportunity for the Marine Board to work with all stakeholders and develop consensus solutions.

Thank you

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