

Letter in Support of HB 4099

Dear Chair McLain and Committee Members,

I own a farm outside Newberg which has a half mile of Willamette River frontage. The property has been in the family since around 1959. We also have a boathouse and a runabout boat which we use on the river during the summer, so I am not writing this as an anti-boat person. The fact is, the types of boats and their intentional design for creating large wakes for wake surfing has changed drastically in the last few years, and the use of these boats in our area of the "Newberg Pool" now dominates the boat traffic in this part of the river. We have witnessed the impacts of these high energy wakes both from a safety and a damage point of view. I would not want older persons, young children, or anyone with compromised balance to be on our boathouse dock when those wakes come through. We go through extreme measures to secure our boat inside the boathouse so it doesn't get thrown against the rails. What the wakes do to the shoreline is another issue not addressed by this bill.

Although on paper there is a 100 foot no wake zone in effect for this part of the river, it does not address the current situation in an adequate and effective manner. This is why I am writing in support of HB 4099 which addresses the lack of operator compliance with Marine Board regulations and the growing gap between those policies and trends in hull size, design, and wake enhancement/ballast system technologies which did not exist at the time of the old regulations.

As a landowner, boater and member of the public concerned with river safety, I urge you to support HB 4099.

Thank you,

Maria Hall, Willamette Farms

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