

James A Stenger

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January 20th, 2018

To: Chair McLain and Committee Members

House Transportation Policy Committee

Oregon State Legislature

Re: HB 4099 and HB 4138

Dear Representatives,

The ingenuity of man is amazing. We invent and improve machines overtime, most of the time for the good of all, and at times not so good or maybe the consequences have not been recognized.

The evolution of recreational boats in the towed water sports industry is such an example. The sciences of design, materials, and size have created an entire new set of sports activity as well as a set of negative consequences. Certain towed water sports activities require the generation of a wake and the bigger the wake the more desirable. This is evident by direct observation of the activities as well as review of the literature and advertising of boats designed for wake boarding, wake surfing, and similar activities.

The negative consequences as I see are:

- Safety concerns to persons nearby this activity
- Safety and destruction of personal property
- Destruction of real property, both private and public

These consequences have been identified in the past as evidenced by regulations now in place by the Oregon State Marine Board (OMSB).

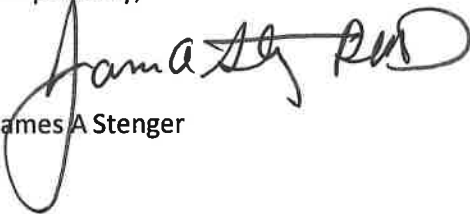
These negative consequences are increasing geometrically and need to be addressed. The OMSB has attempted by adopting rule making but that has been ineffective. Enforcement of current laws in this area has been delegated to local sheriffs and other police entities. The sheriffs have admitted they do not have the tools to enforce the laws. They are underfunded and do not have the ability to document violations of current rules so they can be enforced.

The answer in my opinion is better education, better enforcement of current regulations with increased violation penalties, and prohibition of certain activities in sensitive areas.

There are precedents to do this. For example, snow mobiles, dune buggies, off road vehicles and the like are all regulated as to where they can operate and under what conditions. This is no different, if this activity is causing safety concerns and property destruction, it should not be allowed. It should be limited to areas where safety and property are not affected. One can buy a gun but that does not give the owner the right to use my house as a target. Same is true with boats creating large wakes capable of causing property destruction. One may have the right to operate a boat to create sizable wakes, but that does not give the operator the right to destroy property with that wake.

I support and encourage you to approve HB 4099 and HB 4138

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Stenger". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

James A Stenger