

My name is Randy Harris and I am passionately opposed to 4099 & 4138.

I am blessed to live on this area of the river and grew up in a boating family. I have a 14 year old son that loves the water and all activities associated with it. The family memories and quality of life we experience here on the Willamette are precious to us and currently at risk. As I'm sure you also can appreciate, we pay a premium to live on the water and enjoy this luxury. I'm a licensed real estate broker specializing in waterfront properties. Many people are deeply concerned that if these Bills were to pass, their home values would be negatively influenced and I believe based upon my experience that they would to a great extent. Most of my clients shopping for waterfront properties already own power boats and have a desire to move to the river for the same reasons my family did. To boat down the Willamette in the 20 mile section related to these Bills; you would find that conservatively 70% of the boats parked at these \$1M+ waterfront homes are the exact types of boats that 4099 & 4138 aspire to restrict, fine and ultimately impose jail time upon these citizens that are recreating with their families and friends!

I have participated in the efforts to come to a resolution on this topic for over a year now. I was originally inspired to get involved when a petition was filed to extend the existing no WED (Wake Enhancing Device – a variety of items that can shape the boat wake for watersports) ordinance in the fall of 2016. For perspective, nearly every sport boat on the market today has some variation of a WED as its standard equipment so this ordinance has a very broad reach and influences most power boaters. There was a passionate response by recreational boaters ***in opposition*** to this petition that also then fueled the question of why this ordinance which places people's lives at risk still remained in place. The OSMB then decided to assemble a 10 person Advisory board to address these concerns, get a better understanding of the relevancy of the ordinance in today's conditions and whether it had outlived its purpose. They also recognized that after nearly 8 years of having this ordinance in place; this single area on the upper Willamette River remains *the only public waterway in the country* to restrict the use of these devices.

After 4 months of meetings and discussion; 9 out of 10 of the board members (including the gentleman that submitted the petition to extend the no WED zone and the Clackamas county marine patrol) supported a proposal to **eliminate the ordinance** and implement some intuitive/common sense rules to support safe boating practices around private docks and permit all to coexist on the waterway. There was a concerted effort to keep the laws consistent with nationwide and existing Oregon boating laws. 1 person "went along" with the proposal over months of meetings without raising strong concerns until the final meeting before approval of the proposal to present to the OSMB. At that meeting, she gave her absolute objection to the proposal and was unable to present a reasonable alternative solution. I can tell you that several people left the table very frustrated at the investment of time, effort and energy to come to what nearly all believed to be a great solution to the concern for 1 person to "drop this bomb" in the 9th hour without presenting her concerns for discussion months before.

As a result of the advisory board not reaching 100% agreement to the proposal, the proposal was not presented to the OSMB as a viable solution to the issues at hand.

The way the ordinance is currently written it is placing families in *grave danger*. Rachel Graham of the OSMB admitted that at the time the ordinance was passed nearly 8 years ago, they understood that there was potential for unforeseen consequences. Since the ordinance was put in place, the water sports industry has grown significantly in various types of wake sports. As a result, more people are

being forced into a restricted area to perform these sports. When given the option, boaters would naturally disperse along the river (or a lake) and separate themselves from other boat traffic.

I live on the Willamette River in the area that is directly affected by this existing ordinance and the proposed Bills HB 4099 & HB 4138. I **DO NOT** support these proposed Bills and respectfully request your support in helping my family, friends and neighbors (and all Oregonians trailering boats) to be permitted to play responsibly on this amazing public waterway and not discriminate against this particular class of boater.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Randy Harris

Licensed Real Estate Broker



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