

To: Members of Oregon House Committee on Transportation Policy
Subject: HB 4099 and HB 4138

I support passage of House Bill 4099 and House Bill 4138.

There has been a long history of attempts to address safety, dock damage and bank erosion in this stretch of the Willamette River. Unfortunately previous approaches have not been successful. **It is time to pass these bills.** These bills will provide the Oregon State Marine Board and law enforcement with the tools they need to improve boating safety, reduce dock damage and protect the river banks from additional erosion.

As I am sure you are aware, the Oregon State Marine Board has made numerous attempts to resolve these issues. They started with education. When that was not successful, they drafted rules, held hearings, re-drafted rules, held more hearings and then over a period of two years slowly implemented the slow-no-wake zones and then no wake-enhancing-devices. The Marine Board also implemented a no-wake zone for the entire river near the boat marina near the I-5 Boone Bridge in order to protect the marina property and the dozens of boats moored there during the summer months. The proposed bill will take a positive step in protecting the other docks and boats without making the entire river a no-wake-zone. These last regulations were implemented over eight years ago! At yet, the problems have worsened.

The issue has been studied enough, and other attempts have not been successful. It is time to take the next step. As the boat technology continues to create larger, more powerful wakes, these problems will only be exacerbated without your action.

I have lived in this section of the river for over 30 years and continue to be an active and avid boater. I regularly ski, wake board and wake surf with family friends. And I will continue to enjoy these water sports while complying with the proposed bills.

You are to be commended for taking this balanced next step in keeping our river safe, and protecting property and the environment.

Sincerely,

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