

Dear Representative,

My husband and I bought a home to raise our family in Wilsonville along the Upper Willamette River six years ago. Our first priority in a home was river access with a private boat dock and we ultimately assumed a large mortgage to be where we are. We are boat enthusiasts and love sharing time as a family on the water. Our preferred sport is wake boarding. Our children are six and nine and are just now growing old enough to learn this sport and appreciate the river. We also enjoy kayaking and fishing in this water but our preferred activity is getting out and wake boarding.

The thought of no longer being able to utilize the river as we have been, particularly now that our children are starting to show an interest is very disheartening. Not only from a shared family activity standpoint but for the fiscal impact. Our home will not nearly be as valuable without the ability to use the Upper Willamette as we have been. A sport/activity shared by many homeowners along the Upper Willamette and one which will continue to draw more tax paying, business supporting families to this community. In addition to the loss of property value, the value of our expensive, wake boarding boat will decrease significantly as well. Should these HBs pass, will home owners be compensated for this loss? We should be.

I understand there are a few home owners along the river who have loudly voiced their preferences to ban the sport we love. I believe this is less about wake boarding and more about people who unfortunately choose to share the water disrespectfully. Please don't let the minority influence a decision to pass HB4099 and HB4138. It would be devastating to the many families who like ours, longed to be on the Upper Willamette to share a sport we love with our kids. There are no viable alternatives to enjoy this sport in our area. There are many other places in and around the Upper Willamette to enjoy the water without sharing it with boat enthusiasts. I would politely encourage those home owners to seek out a community better suited to their needs and preferences. I am absolutely in support of preserving this stretch of river as best we can but believe more research needs to be done on the subject of erosion before conclusions are made. I also believe we need to be exploring the possibility of increasing the amount of money it costs to launch your boat and park at Boones Ferry Marina. Right now it's only \$5 per day. We home owners pay far more to live where we do and access the same waters. And I believe those of us who live along the river are more apt to respect it and our fellow property owners as we enjoy this stretch of the river whatever our recreation of choice is. When guests to this stretch of water only have to pay \$5 and don't have an appreciation for how much it costs to maintain a dock, ramp and bank along the river or live in the river they are less likely to boat responsibly. Before we do anything else we should increase how much the guest boaters pay and implement other tactics to ensure this stretch of the river is used respectfully. The increased revenue can then be used to fund research and/or solutions which are mutually agreed upon by both wake boarding and non wake boarding river home owners.

Please ensure that river home owners who enjoy the sport of wake boarding are surveyed and included on task forces and given opportunities to give input. We have lived here as I mentioned for six years and we haven't once been surveyed on the matter or invited to give our input.

Sincerely,

Sally Novitsky