

My name is Paige Stoyer, I am a Mom and a small business owner who lives in Cedar Mill and who rents a boat slip north of [Willamette Park](#). We spent much of our time in the summer taking our kids and friends out on the river to boat, swim, paddle board, and wake surf, as well as visiting our friends who live on the river. No one cares more about safety or our river than we do.

Knowing that the Marine Board is already in charge of working on making sure that there are fair rules in place to protect our river, and to insure safe and fair rules for all of us who use the river, I was upset to learn about some groups who decided to go around this process and instead continue to push bills that would restrict river access from some of us for our sports and activities.

The responsibility for safety and courtesy belongs to all of us and it is not fair to single out one group for bearing the financial costs and training for being safe out there. Motor boat owners already pay fees and take a boater safety class, something perhaps all river users should start doing.

I have seen the clean water coalition asking for people to come forward and share their bad experiences with wake surfers. We can all share bad experiences we have had periodically with people ranging from stand up paddle boarders to jetskiers to swimmers in the middle of the river, but I am not going to try to ban everyone from doing those sports, that is simply not fair. And as a public waterway, a federal navigable one at that, they have no right to arbitrarily say who can use the river.

And in an attempt to try to restrict our access to do wake sports they are trying every argument they can find including claiming erosion, despite no studies to back this up. I am an environmentalist and used to work for Greenpeace, everything I have read and learned points to (and those who have lived on the river for decades will tell you) that erosion has always been a part of life on the river due to the rise and fall of the river and is the worst during high water times.

I belong to the Willamette River Community Coalition which represents many riverfront homeowners, floating home owners, and Oregonians who come to the river to kayak, fish, swim, wake surf and will not allow special interests groups to determine that only their activities should be allowed on the river. If they were interested in safety and access for everyone then they would be reaching out and working with the wake community, instead of relentlessly trying to sneak around the Marine board to pass unfair rules and restrictions like 2351 and 2352.

I am happy to speak more or come and testify,

thank you very much for your time, Paige Stoyer