

It seems like ever since I moved to Oregon in 2004 there has been an attack on wakeboard style boats. The claims have changed over the years, but the basic attacks have not. The Willamette River is a public area that should be enjoyed by all water enthusiasts. This latest attack has been focused on wakeboard/wakesurfers specifically. This Bill is basically trying to slowly remove these activities from the Willamette River. It seems to me that thru continuous education and enforcement of the current laws these activities can still be enjoyed by all who wish to do that. There are only a few areas in the Portland area which allows these sports to happen, the Willamette River being one, and I am guessing the most popular. Many of the other river users that are trying to get this activity removed have many options for their activity. There are countless other bodies of water that are available to use that wakesurfing and wakeboarding cannot use because of the basic size. A few that come to mind: Clackamas River, Tualatin River, Yamhill River and countless smaller lakes and ponds.

One of the arguments over the years has been shore erosion, but nothing has been proven. Let's be honest here, rivers in general will erode any shoreline, that is the basics of a river; constant abrasion of water against the shore. The high and fast moving waters during our rainy season in Portland (November thru April) most likely cause more erosion to our shoreline than any other sources combined.

To me it seems like this Bill is based on special interest groups that is a small portion of the people that use the river. Maybe instead of writing regulations for these type of boats there should be regulations on where the smaller watercraft (kayaks, canoes, SUPs, etc.) are allowed to use the river.