

Representative Paul Evans  
900 Court St. NE H-471  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Evans:

RE: HB 2555

I have canoed the Willamette river nearly every summer for more than 40 years. As a casual paddler, I have shared the river with motor boats of fishers and pleasure boats. There has been the occasional interaction with pleasure boats that create wakes that require careful maneuvering to avoid being swamped. Only until recently have there been boats constructed to create ocean sized waves by displacing as much water as they can through adding additional weight to the vessel. These boats create a clear hazard to other water craft, particularly when operated in a river setting where there is a relatively narrow space.

In a past life I was a lead for the Willamette Special Investment Partnership for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board that provided funding for more than a decade in partnership with the Meyer Memorial Trust to enhance the health and function of the Willamette River. That effort won an international prize (Thiess International Riverprize) for the creative blend of science, community engagement, investment and cooperation to improve conditions of the river. After making such progress by so many Oregonians, it is extremely disheartening to see the potential ecological damage that is posed by the proliferation of these craft.

I strongly support the passage of House Bill 2555 as a mechanism to regulate the limits of these craft and to evaluate the ecological and recreational effects of the load limits as identified in Section 3 of the bill. This relatively modest regulation is a good start to protect the health of all of Oregon's waterways from increased wave induced erosion and damage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kenneth F. Bierly  
2308 Ptarmigan St. NW  
Salem, OR 97304