

To the Committee:

As I mentioned in my emails to the individual Representatives, HB 2555 (and HB 2725) is an unnecessary and overreaching bill that would completely eliminate my family's favorite recreation activity and main source of family time from April through October.

We are willing to work with the strict regulations already in place to share the Willamette river and to be good stewards of the river. However, these further regulations would actually make that impossible for us. I find this proposal completely inequitable as it only serves a select group of users that have become very vocal and committed significant resources to control what is currently still a public waterway.

Erosion is often cited as the main reason to ban wake boats. However, every winter I observe that the upper Willamette rises by 15-20' during winter storms, flooding the Rogers Landing parking lot in Newberg. Along with the rising river level, large logs and debris are swept downstream, impacting banks and docks.

As the natural resources committee, I'll assume your staff has provided you pictures of this to show how much this activity impacts streambank erosion. If they haven't, I have pictures of this available from each of the last 4 years that I could provide to the staff, along with pictures showing the Rogers Landing boat ramp 15-20 lower during each summer season. Pictures and stream data are also archived by the USGS to help with your due diligence.

I strongly oppose HB 2555 (and 2725).

Thank you,
Jon Bowdoin