

I have owned a "wake boat" for 9 years. First it was on Lake Oswego and the past 3 summers on the Willamette river. Over this period of time wake boarding and wake surfing has pulled my kids and i together after a divorce. It provides a basis of common activity that we all share and love. We are responsible boaters...all 3 of my children have gone through the OSMB education and have their boating licenses. They've learned to drive our boat responsibly by following the rules of the waterway. There are so many others that do not. To eliminate the ability to share in this activity creates a gap in our family's ability to recreate together in a way that builds bonds and lifelong experiences needed for everyone.

In addition to my personal experiences, I am highly opposed to HB2725 for the following reasons:

* The head of Oregon Fish and Wildlife does not agree with these claims about boat wakes impact on fish.

*An objective scientific wave study done on the upper Willamette River by AMC, which concluded that even the largest wake by 100 feet had dissipated to less than 18 inches. It also showed that fishing boats created some of the biggest wakes.

* Safety experts on the river including Portland Fire and Rescue have repeatedly said there is no factual basis for the safety claims being made about boat wakes. Larry Warren, the director of The Marine Board actually stated that the increase in accidents and deaths has been due to the behavior of non-motorized users, mostly a result of them going out unprepared or not having the proper skill set for the area they were in.

* The OSU wave experts gave a presentation to the Marine Board in which they wrote, "The intensity of the erosion produced by boat wakes can be considered as very small."

They also stated that there are so many known contributors to erosion, including many natural causes and also agriculture, development and construction on the banks, dams, dredging etc. So that further studies would be needed to know what if any impact boat wakes had, they wrote "A long-term, monitoring program (minimum of 1 year) would provide information on the magnitude of the different agents affecting the morphological evolution of the river margins."

* The best approach to solving any perceived issues here is to do a longer term study (at least a year) and to monitor impact of all class of boats. Additionally, enforcement and education will solve the majority of issues we witness on the river each summer boating season. Allowing the public to rent motorized boats without an OSMB license is completely irresponsible. I have witnessed so many near accidents that were avoided as a result of responsible boaters, like myself that have attempted to educate them on the water.

This (and the other HB's) are attempting to push through a biased and uneducated point of view on our public river which should be shared by all enthusiasts.

TAKE THE TIME TO BE A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNING BODY AND UNDERSTAND THAT INCLUSION, EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE CURRENT RULES SOLVES ANY PROBLEMS OUT ON THE WATER TODAY.

Thank you for allowing me to provide this testimony.

Kind Regards,

Tod