

I have lived along the Newberg Pool section of the Willamette River for over 30 years. I support HB 2555 because the Upper Willamette is NO PLACE for the massive, hugely destructive surf boats that have become so popular. The operators of these ruinous craft seem to care only about themselves with no consideration for other river users. This makes a relaxing canoe outing a dangerous affair. The river banks on this section of river are primarily soft silt and very fragile. The water turbidity on a summer afternoon has become so bad we don't swim in it. To see the beautiful water in the morning transformed into a substance similar to chocolate milk just a few hours later is very sad. This is a more recent phenomenon that we never experienced in past summers. The cause of this horrid turbidity it is due primarily to these oversized boats creating huge waves that crash high up the soft, fragile river bank. The only solution to this problem is to have a reasonable weight limit on boats in the Newberg Pool, a 4,000 pound limit is the way to go. The Columbia River, Lower Willamette, Detroit Lake, etc. are all much better suited to large, damaging boats.

I hope the committee will wisely consider the needs of our fish and wildlife and put the good stewardship of our environment and the safety of all river users over the special interests of a few wealthy boater owners.