

March 8, 2021

RE: HB 2555, HB 2725

Good Afternoon,

I'm writing today to oppose HB 2555 and HB 2725. I'm extremely concerned that a small group of people are making an attempt to limit boating for so many families in the Metro Area. The Willamette river has long been a popular boating destination for many. These proposed bills to limit what people can do on the river goes way too far and would destroy this incredibly large family activity that so many love. The weight of a boat must be under 4000 pounds to tow anything in the proposed bills. What is the science behind this number? Is there an expert in hydrodynamics that said 4000 pounds is the right number for no damage to or around the river banks or docks? Maybe somebody went to a few wakeboard/surf boat websites to get a few arbitrary numbers. There are many boats that are 4000 pounds or more that cruise at plowing speeds, or pull a tube, or kneeboard, that create wakes just as much as the seemingly popular "wakeboard /surf" boat. But this still isn't justification for this proposed ban. My kids grew up being on the river in a variety of boats. They ski, kneeboard, wakeboard, surf, but mostly rode a tube...and behind boats that are more than 4000 pounds.

If this about erosion and dock damage, what are the next steps to prevent river flooding that occurs every winter or limit snowfall that destroyed many docks and boat houses this winter? My point is the river itself and weather events have caused more issues along the river than any boat or boating activity ever will.

I am not a proponent of restrictions, but there are solutions. The upper Willamette has "surf" zones. These have seemed to work well, albeit, there are not enough of them. Is this not an option to keep in place? And if not, why? Why not add zones? There seems to be other areas on the river that already meet the criteria for doing so. I just don't understand the absurdity of a complete ban and the arbitrary 4000 pound number. C'mon people. There are solutions to the concerns that work. I find it hard to believe that these bills are a topic in our legislature given the current condition of our state and country. There are a whole bunch of people that need help. It's baffling to me that this is even being considered while people of this state are fighting for their lives.

Respectfully,

Jason Fillinger-Palotay

Sherwood, OR