

I strongly oppose HB 2555 for the below reasons:

-These bills would mean an all-out ban on wake boats in the Upper Willamette by establishing an unachievable weight limit on boats seeking a towed water sports endorsement.

-This will only add to the safety issues on the river. Banning wake boats from the Upper Willamette not only destroys boating opportunities for Oregonians, but it will add to congestion and safety issues in other bodies of water. Top safety officials assert the proposed regulations will cause overcrowding and dangerous conditions.

-This not only exacerbates safety issues, but it also fails to solve a primary issue - enforcement. The state has already struggled to enforce the laws and rules we have, and the bills do not address how to deal with the worst offenders who make the river dangerous for everybody.

-There is no empirical evidence that directly links erosion on the banks of the river or damage to docks to wake boats. Not only that, but wake sports are already prohibited in sections of the Upper Willamette with adjacent homes.

-These bills will decimate small businesses that depend on the river. Recreational boating brings \$1.6 billion in annual economic impact to Oregon and supports almost 6,000 jobs and more than 400 businesses, including marinas, gas stations, mechanics, restaurants, dealers and more.

-This unfairly targets certain populations (wake boarders & wake surfers) - this has no impact on tubes being towed