

I urge you to oppose HB 2555, HB 2695 and HB 2734. The bills are unnecessary and are designed by special interest groups to overregulate Oregon waterways. They are bad public policy and will further impact Oregon families and small businesses.

The 4,000-pound weight limit in HB 2555 is not a restriction—it's practically an outright ban on towing that kicks off more than two-thirds of the families who recreate in the Newberg Pool, preventing parents from pulling their kids on a tube behind an affordable, multi-purpose boat.

Furthermore, the Newberg Pool is already one of the most highly regulated waterways in Oregon. Wakesurfers and wakeboarders are already limited to a 3-mile, mostly uninhabited stretch of the river. They are also subject to additional safety certifications, annual taxes and existing weight limits.

According to safety officials, HB 2555 will make our waterways less safe and more crowded by pushing more than 250 boats on to other lakes and rivers throughout Oregon.

HB 2555 and 2734 will decimate small businesses that depend on the river. Recreational boating brings \$1.6 billion in annual economic impact to Oregon. It supports almost 6,000 jobs and more than 400 businesses, including marinas, gas stations, mechanics, restaurants, dealers and more. This year, we need to be squarely focused on bolstering small business recovery and fueling our local economy.

This legislation is born out of special interest agendas and is not representative of the community at large. These policy agendas are put forth by groups whose ultimate goal is to diminish motorized boating across Oregon. Our waterway policies should not favor select waterfront homeowners and paddlers looking to eliminate motorized boating for their own personal gain.

Finally, the proposed expansion of the Marine Board called for in HB 2695 is purposely designed by special interest groups to serve their agenda. It is a deliberate attempt to politicize the Marine Board and pave the way for even more drastic regulations that don't benefit the broader boating community.

I hope you will consider the impact of these unnecessary proposals and vote against these bills progressing through the legislature this session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bryan Soles