

Dear Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Members,

Please support HB 2555/HB2725 and HB2695. These bills will go a long way to helping improve all recreation in the Newberg Pool and reduce environmental damage to the river and its habitat.

The issues in the Newberg Pool section of the Willamette River are tough. It takes courage and dedication to tackle them to protect the Willamette River. You are doing a true public service and it isn't easy. But it is the right thing to do.

And, it is much appreciated by many of us who live here and love the river.

As those of us who have been working on this issue for several years know, we are facing a well-funded and angry group of wake sport enthusiasts who believe it is their "right" to do what they want on the river — no matter how it affects their neighbors, the environment, others recreating on the river or the endangered species threatened by their activities.

Operators of wake surfing and wake boarding boats frequently do not observe the current rules which result in unsafe conditions for many others to enjoy the river and their property.

This damaging behavior endangers children, pets, small boats, kayakers, swimmers, fishing and other users of the river.

The heavy wake boats do significant environmental damage to the river, its banks and the wildlife that live there.

The Newberg Pool is only 500 to 600 feet wide. It is a slow moving pool (hence the name) and the banks are silt based which can not take the pounding from these large massive boats in the summer.

The river is too narrow. Period.

If it takes 400 feet for these wakes to disperse and you have the Newberg Pool only 500 feet wide, plus docks, other boats, paddlers and swimmers —the physics do NOT work!

The Willamette River runs through some of the most populated areas of the state with diverse recreational users and sensitive fish and wildlife habitat. These boats threaten the river, others recreating on it and the habitat supporting it.

I support recreational uses of the river provided that those activities don't endanger others or harm the river. The Upper Willamette is simple too narrow, fragile, developed and congested to balance the needs of all users without some type of wake control measures in place.

Thank you again for helping protect safety, shoreline, property within the Willamette Greenway and ensuring this treasured recreational resource will continue for a wide range of recreation uses for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Darby Collins

Wilsonville