

Dear Committee:

I urge you to support HB 2555 and HB 2695 to protect the nurseries of the river. These nurseries, that create habitat and food for many river species, are the very nearshore areas that are harmed by artificial waves generated by some towed water sports boats. I grew up water skiing and wakeboarding but in large lakes where the waves created by boat traffic was less harmful. The Willamette river is a relatively small and narrow body of water where the wake of a single wake surfing boat can create huge waves that are dangerous for other users of the river and obviously detrimental to the shoreline and ecosystem. I would encourage making the entire Willamette river, especially in heavily trafficked areas a slow-no wake zone. That would allow boating uses for fishing and cruising but greatly reduce the danger and impact wake boats create today.

By passing HB 2555 and HB 2695, we can limit the huge weight of towed water sports boats to 4,000 lbs (which should be river-wide), and can create a more representative OSMB to better incorporate protection of the nurseries of the river, protect private property, and protect other river users.

Today these boats are far too big, and the OSMB is too limited in its representation.

Thank you for supporting these two bills.

Sincerely,
Elliott Gansner