



March 8, 2021

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
900 Court Street NE, Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

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**RE: HB 2555 and HB 2695 before the 2021 Oregon legislature**

Dear Committee:

I urge you to support HB 2555 and HB 2695 to protect the Willamette River's clean and healthy fish habitat from the destructive activity of wake boats. The river harbors important nurseries for imperiled salmon, and supports habitat and food for many other river species - especially the shallow nearshore areas that are harmed by artificial waves generated by some towed water sports boats.

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.

As a scientist, I have witnessed first-hand the strong bias of the present OSMB towards active recreational interests, and against considerations for public safety, natural resources science, low-intensive nature appreciation. I urge you to act to expand the OSMB membership.

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

Thank you for supporting these two bills.

Sincerely,

Ted Labbe  
503-758-9562

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