

To the Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

I am writing to urge your approval of HB 2555, a bill to restrict wave causing boats to 4,000 pounds in the Newberg stretch of the Willamette River. Above all else, safety of all users of the river must be paramount. This bill, by limiting the size of power boats, is a step in the right direction. The speed of heavy watercraft will be reduced as will the size of the waves they produce, which will help reduce the risk of collision and the swamping of non-motorized users on the river.

In addition, reducing the allowable weight of heavy watercraft may provide an incentive to owners to conduct water skiing/wave surfing on open bodies of water such as lakes or reservoirs(where permitted) and where such activity has traditionally, and more appropriately, occurred.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

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