

I am writing you to provide support for HB 2725 to limit the weight of wake boats. At this point in time, boats designed to generate artificial waves are causing a lot of problems on the Willamette River, and beyond.

These craft create significant damage to private property, which is well-documented. They also impact every other user of our flat-water rivers, making them very turbulent waterways that negatively impact ecology and recreation. Non-wake river recreation is dangerously affected, throwing people into the water and destroying craft. The ecology of our river is damaged as wakes hammer the nearshore area, causing harm to the aquatic ecosystem, and impacting wild fish, freshwater mussels, macro invertebrates and more. I encourage you to support this bill mentioned above. We need to limit the impact of wake boats.

Wake board boats comprise a very small number of river users and voters. The damage they do and danger they cause is disproportionately greater than the number of boats. There are relatively few boats which do all the damage, maybe a maximum of 1000 voters. But there are several thousands of voters who are not so rich they can afford these expensive craft. You know better than I, it's the number of votes that count. Those several thousand voters will support you. In a time where the National Wake Surfing industry is spending big money in Salem, I encourage you to do the right thing for our waterways, and for the vast majority of people of Oregon and support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyer  
#11 Portland Rowing Club  
100 SE Harney St. Portland,  
Oregon 97202