

March 8, 2021

Dear Representatives:

I write to you today **in support of House Bill 2695**, which modifies membership of the Oregon State Marine Board. This proposed expansion of the Board's composition will create a more representative governing body. I particularly support including a board member who owns a floating home.

I also **support House Bill 2555**, which limits the maximum loading weight of a boat to 4,000 pounds in order to obtain a towed watersports certificate.

I live at the Oregon Yacht Club, a floating home moorage located on the Lower Willamette River. Each summer, it's wonderful to see more people discover the river for themselves using non-motorized craft. These numbers will only continue to increase as city planners develop new ways for people to more easily access the river.

But safety concerns are real when non-motorized boats are capsized and swamped when they encounter the large, artificial wakes generated by the the heavy wake boats. The otherwise peaceful Willamette can become like an ocean on evenings and weekends; many human-powered boaters and users are forced to flee when wake surfers arrive on scene.

In addition, the artificial wakes these boats generate also scour the river shoreline at our moorage — causing erosion, loss of viable 'river edge', and increased turbidity. The damage caused by the small number of wake boats on the congested waterways of the Newberg Pool and Lower Willamette over the last few years is clearly visible. We must act now to prevent further damage.

I urge you to **support HB 2695 and HB 2555** for the benefit of our state's waterways and the majority of the citizens of Oregon. Thank you.

Kelly Butler Holtz
6901 SE Oaks Park Way Slip 18
Portland, OR 97202