

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Lindsey Tucker and I'm a nearly 30-year boater. I grew up in the surrounding area of the Willamette River and have spent countless hours on my family's boat enjoying the beautiful surroundings that we've been blessed with. However, that is in jeopardy now because of HB 2725, which is why I oppose this proposed bill. As time has gone on, the Willamette River has only become more regulated for wakeboarding and wakesurfing. The vast majority of boaters in the area are extremely safe and respectful, as I have rarely encountered bad boat drivers. By passing another bill that negatively affects only boaters, you will be adding safety issues to other parts of the river due to congestion, further disrupting the natural bodies of water in that area, and limiting the opportunities for hundreds of families trying to enjoy socially distant activities.

In addition, I work for a small business in the recreational watersports industry. I wish I could tell you how much joy I see every day when a family is purchasing their first boat or their first wakeboard. It's just the beginning of a lifetime of fun, happy family memories - just like mine. By passing HB 2725, you are taking away from the joy of young families and only making it more difficult for a new boater to learn common sense respect and safety while driving. In addition, you would be taking away business from the small business I work for. And small businesses have already endured plenty during COVID-19.

I hope you will consider terminating HB 2725. As a small business worker with passion for the watersports industry, I pride myself on providing the best knowledge for my customers - because at the end of the day, we all just want to be able to enjoy the water in the safest way possible. I encourage all boaters and other water-dwellers to educate each other on the best to stay safe and have fun on the water, rather than completely stripping opportunities of just boaters. Now more than ever, let's work together, not against each other.

Thank you for your time and consideration.