

Chair Witt & members of the committee, my name is Lisa Ippolito and i am here to testify in opposition to HB 2555 & HB 2725.

I have been boating in the Newberg pool area since 1990 with friends and family. In 2001, I was blessed and became a waterfront owner with a dock. I was extremely excited that I would be fortunate to boat, do watersports, & paddle from my dock and share this dream with friends and family. In the past 10+ years, my daughter has developed the same love for boating and doing watersports on the river. As a family, we've taught many of her school, soccer, & basketball friends how to waterski, kneeboard, wakeboard, wake surf, and paddle board. Now they all share the love for water sports!

Not long after we moved to the river it's been a constant battle to be able to do these activities on the Willamette River, a public river. Each time restrictions are being proposed it's always for a different reason...erosion, fish habitat, type of activity, etc. but in the end there's never any documented proof that boating causes negative impact to justify the extreme restrictions. In the 20 years that we've had our dock, we've had no damage during the prime water sport boating season (May - Sept). We have had to replace lost floatation in the Spring time after hard winters when the river was high & brown with strong current that caused large debris and trees to hit & get stuck on or under our dock. Like most large investments, we do routine upkeep and maintenance to make sure our property and valuables are safe and look nice.

Passing these laws is unjust & discriminatory:

- \* It will eliminate the majority of the boat users on this part of the river
- \* It will overcrowd local lakes & rivers like the Hagg lake & the Columbia river for those who can tow their boats, thus creating unsafe bodies of water
- \* OSMB has already installed highly regulated areas in the upper Willamette (Newberg pool) to help reduce boating activity by docks but with the result of creating tight overcrowded unsafe areas
- \* Similar to the previous restrictions passed by the OSMB, these Bills are not based on science. There is no empirical evidence that directly links erosion on the riverbanks or damage to docks by boating
- \* In time of economical hard times, these bills will decimate small business that depend on the river. Plus it will negatively impact local business that rely on this traffic for gas, food, & other essential purchases done by the boaters
- \* These bills will devalue home properties
- \* These bills will leave thousands of families not able to use their boats thus leaving most with years of monthly payments as the market for re-sale would be taken away

Thank you for listening with open ears & i ask that you support your supporters/voters in stopping these bills from passing.

All of the Willamette River should be open to all people, interests, & activities year round...restrictions will continue to cause emotional, personal, and financial negative impact.

lisa