

I am writing today in Support of HB2555 and HB2695 and request the support of you on this matter as well.

We purchased a home on the Willamette river about 3 years ago. We work from home and our office faces the river. Since living here, we have noticed that the river turns muddy on days when wake surfing boats are about due to the impact of large wakes. The large wakes impact the river's shoreline, and the river bottom. This is the same habitat used by wild fish, such as threatened Chinook and Winter Steelhead. These fish use these areas even in the summer months. The large wakes these wake enhanced boats put off are causing damage to docks and other personal property. Our neighbors are not able to use their docks on most days because of the wake waves jostling the docks making them dangerous to simply set a chair and enjoy the river. We have seen wakes crash over docks and wash chairs, towels etc into the water. This is not right. Property owners ought to be able to enjoy the dock they have permitted through the state, county, DLS, BLM and other governmental regulatory agencies.

Please show your support for HB2555 and HB2695.

HB2555 would let a limit of 4,000 pounds for boats in the Newberg Pool (instead of the current 10,000 pounds) for all towed water sports. The bill states the Oregon State Marine Board can and should conduct detailed studies about the environmental impacts of large wakes in the Newberg Pool if they want to consider increasing the maximum loading weight.

HB2695 would modify membership requirements of the Oregon State Marine Board by expanding the board to 7 voting members, and defining those positions as to not allow one member to direct their personal agenda. It also adds 2 non-voting members to bring intergovernmental cooperation by including Department of State Lands, Department of Environmental Quality and a federal fisheries agency.

Thank you in advance for all of your efforts and hard work for the people of Oregon.