

HB 2555 and HB2725 TESTIMONY - I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK VERBALLY

I am Rod Monroe.

I am a Licensed Professional Civil Engineer with training in water dynamics.

I also live on the Willamette River, own a dock and watch the bank closely.

I am asking you to not pass increased restrictions of boating on Willamette River recreation targeted at wake sports.

This targeted attack on wake sports has been promoted as causing bank erosion. Bank erosion happens in the high run-off season not in the recreational season. The high and fast flowing water during run-off has several orders of magnitude more erosive energy than waves created by boats.

The erosion caused by seasonal run-off is parallel to the bank and causes scour which will remove soil from the bank. The waves from boats come to the bank perpendicular to the river and pushes into the bank in the bank's strongest direction.

Busy recreation times are limited to the daylight hours in a few busy days in the summer. High run-off flows can occur for weeks at a time. So not only does run-off have much more erosive energy, it is sustained for longer periods of time than recreational waves.

The observation of the river is consistent with this basic water dynamic science. We can see our bank erode in the high run-off flow in the winter and spring, and we do not observe erosion in the summer recreational times when the water levels are low and river velocity is low. This is why the river is brown in the winter and spring and blue green in the summer.

The claims by the special interest group that wake sports cause bank erosion is unfounded by both science and observation. Erosion is being used by this special interest group to eliminate other forms of recreation to allow them exclusive use of the river.

Even though I own a smaller ski boat, I urge you to stop this discriminatory attack on recreation. Please support shared responsible recreation by all Oregonians on the river, including wake sports.

Thank you,
Rod Monroe, Aurora

PS. I was very disappointed in the way this meeting was run. So much time was wasted on introduction and non-functioning videos instead of listening to the bulk of the testimonies you asked to testify. You did not hear the voice of the public. Was that intentional?