

Hello and thank you. I am an Oregon City resident, a Nurse, an avid upper Willamette paddleboarder, and wakeboat owner.

I would like to voice my sincere opposition to these bills.

I have young grade school children as well as young adult children and during the summers we look forward to getting out on our boat together to enjoy healthy, active, outdoor water activities including towed water sports. My husband grew up waterskiing on this same stretch of river and boating on the Upper Willamette is a family legacy stretching 4 generations.

As an advanced degree and internationally published scientist, I will stress that there is a balance to be found between legitimate ecological needs based on sound science, and the needs of our community for healthy, safe water recreation. The opinion of a few scientists without reproducible and peer reviewed data does NOT represent a body of evidence enough to support a public ban of wakeboats on the Upper Willamette. Many questions remain.

We have heard much about erosion, and yes, no doubt all types of boats contribute something to bank erosion. All human activity alters the river in a wide variety of ways. But if erosion is our most significant concern, perhaps a more effective legislative remediation should focus on the elimination of further human development, including home building or property development, along the river or somehow finding a way to stop the natural course of rivers- which erode and flux seasonally as their natural course. The desire to see a static and unchanging river or river bank is unnatural. We live across from the Clackamas River bank and see the same type of erosion we've heard and seen here, actually far worst, without the contribution of wakeboats.

In regards to safety, during the summer months, we see and hear emergency vehicles regularly hauling in boats headed out to attempt rescue of kayakers, floaters, and paddlers, and several fatalities occur annually. Why aren't we directing our marine board resources to legitimate public safety concerns? State and local data supports this need.

The Upper Willamette river is an ecologically important area deserving of conservation, but far from a pristine wilderness untouched by the alterations of human development and exploitation. We are discussing the recreational use of a major thoroughfare river in a populated area adjoining a major metropolis.

The value to my family of wakeboat recreation on the Upper Willamette cannot be quantified. I strongly warn against the easy scapegoating of towed water sport boats, it's a common human error to attribute frustrations to the most easily identified "enemy" as illustrated by the out of context anecdotes in support of these bills.