

I am writing to oppose bill HB2725 and HB 2555. I am a home owner on the Willamette River directly across from Molalla State Park. I have lived here for 42 years. As a child I had a wonderful childhood growing up on the river. I learned to water ski when I was six and wakeboard when I was 15, and now I am teaching my two boys who are 12 and 14 how to do the same. The joy it brings them is everything to me. It has been such a hard year for these kids and they are so looking forward to getting back on the river to do the things they love. Home owners who are for this bill are owners who haven't grown up on the river. I have grown up in the same house that I now raise my family in. I have seen it all, yes there is erosion, erosion due to a fast moving current and much higher water levels during our winter months. I have lived through the 96 flood where we had to tie our boathouse up to trees to save it because our pilings broke and that single handedly changed the shape of the river banks more than any other event and more than all the summers of boating combined. I have recently just purchased a new ski/ wakeboard boat which weighs over your 4,000# imposed weight limit on the upper Willamette and you are taking away my right to enjoy and share the river which I have grown up with. As a home owner of riverfront property, it is not my right to impose my will on all those who enjoy the river in respect to my own property and the damage it incurs. Home owners of riverfront property should be well aware when they purchase these properties that their maintenance is almost annual and it is the price you pay when you purchase a beautiful home on the river. Winter wreaks havoc on all structures in Oregon and a boat dock or bank is no different. These properties are subject to decline each year due to weather, not recreational boating for 2-3 months out of the year. I sincerely hope you take these factors into account when making your final decision. I thank you for the chance to explain my positions and why I am so strongly against the 2 measures.