

## **A SOLUTION LOOKING FOR A PROBLEM!**

I have been a river front home and dock owner since 2002. I live just upriver from Interstate 5 on the Wilsonville side of the river. As a lifetime Oregon resident, I grew up enjoying watersports on this stretch of the river and have done so for now nearly 50 years. I first learned to waterski when I was 5 almost exactly where I now live. I was fortunate enough that I was able to start my family here on the river doing what we all love doing – recreating on the river. We have two boats moored in our dock for about 9 months out of every year, and we spend nearly every evening in the summer on our dock with family and friends. It was a massive investment to build on the river, put in a dock, be a boat owner, but it was an investment in a lifestyle, so it was worth it.

For the past 15 years, I have spent countless hours of my time making comments like these to the OSMB and to the legislature, sitting on OSMB work groups and even a legislative work group all to discuss something that as a homeowner I don't see as an issue. The vast majority of the homeowners on the river don't have issues with the boats and boaters as evidenced by the types of boats that most of us own. Yet time after time we are called upon to defend the privilege of recreational boating for ourselves and everyone else that comes to the river. If there were any actual evidence of erosion, property damage or safety issues, I'm certain that over the course of 15 years it would have been produced to substantiate these claims. To date, the only thing produced has been the claims of a noisy few. You don't hear from most of the homeowners on the river because people that don't have an issue don't have anything to complain about.

Interstate 5 runs through the Portland area like the Willamette River does. Just like boating, driving is a privilege that we have to get licensed and have a significant investment in to do it. There are all different types of vehicles allowed down Interstate 5 just like the many different types of boats on the river. We all know that Interstate 5 is overcrowded with traffic (there are probably even bills in the legislature about it right now), it is noisy, it has a huge impact on the environment and wildlife around it, and it is clearly one of the most dangerous roadways in the area in terms of accidents and fatalities. Why don't we shut down traffic on Interstate 5? We have actual empirical evidence that substantiates all of this. These are actual problems in need of a solution. House Bills 2555 and 2725 for the river, however, are solutions in seek of a problem. Now as absurd as it would be to shut down Interstate 5 to cars, that is what these bills and their amendment language seek to do to boating on the river.

The largest group of stakeholders in all of this are the people that live here. We stand to lose a ton in property value and the ability to use our boats. I don't have trailers available to even take my boats anywhere else than here on the river. Why have we never been asked as an entire group in an unbiased manner whether we have a problem? It's because the majority wouldn't come up with one.

Members of the committee, my name is Darren Holsey and my testimony is in opposition to House Bills 2555 and 2725. Thank you committee for your consideration.