

My family is a water sport family and believe the Willamette River is a beautiful resource for all to share. We live in West Linn and spend many afternoons and weekends on the Upper Willamette from April to September. Our enjoyment includes motorboating, kayaking and stand up paddle boarding. Our days include towing our kids and friends behind the motor boat. These bills would strip safe, socially distant outdoor opportunities for hundreds of families along the Willamette River, including yours. Parents like myself will no longer be able to pull my kids on a tube with the affordable, multi-purpose boat like the Regal SE 2000 or Bayliner Trophy.

This section of the river is already highly regulated to towed sports with wake surfing only allowed in two areas where there are no docks or homes. This will only add to the safety issues on the river. Banning wake boats from the Upper Willamette not only destroys boating opportunities for Oregonians, but it will add to congestion and safety issues in other bodies of water. The vast majority of boaters like myself are safe and responsible. We should focus on increased education and enforcement of the existing rules.