

Dear Rep Witt and committee, I'm strongly opposed to this bill to tax the wake surfing boats. First reason is how can you tax us when you also want to take the river away from us? So we must pay 5% and also not get to use the Willamette River?! Second point is that you say this is funding water safety education and law enforcement. If you look back the last couple of years there has been NO deaths/serious injuries to waking surfers but multiple deaths to kayakers, paddle boarders, fisherman and jet skiers. It seems to me they are the unsafe ones and they should be taxed. They also should have to take an safety education class like you made us. Which I might add didn't even preteen to safety of surfing and was the same stuff you made us learn to get a license. They might argue the wake surfers caused the accidents, nope not true. Most accidents are in winter months when the river is dangerous.

I don't know how many times I've passed by a group of paddle boarders tied up next to each other drinking beer and smoking pot with no life vest on. Just four days ago a fisherman died on the Willamette River, Foster Reservoir a jet skier killed innocent kids, and last fall multiple kayakers drowned/went missing. None of this was because of wake boats.

You are segregating a group of people because 5% gets you more money than a \$500 kayak or paddle board. You should honestly have the ones dying take the class and pay for the education.

Thank you for your time and please vote no.

Sincerely,

Alexis Whalen, Sean Whalen, Ethan Whalen, Brennan Whalen and Kelson Whalen from Keizer.