

Thank you for allowing the public to speak on this bill. I am in strong opposition, as the safety implications of this bill passing gravely scares me. I acknowledge there are some environmental concerns, and there should be some sort of compromise to best address those concerns. However, this bill is not it. Forcing hundreds of wake boats into a smaller area by blocking off this stretch of the river, when the lower is already limited, will lead to congestion and exacerbate the environmental AND safety concerns. The willamette is already a very busy place on the weekends during the summer, and that's when the whole river is in use. Narrow usage down to a small stretch and congestion will increase two fold, to a point where boats will be crashing into each other and putting individuals lives in danger. Boater safety for all kinds of vehicles, as well as safety for any kind of activity on the willamette, should be the focus. I've grown up on this river and been boating since I was the age of 7. I have seen first hand how the willamette river has changed, and although environmental impact should be considered, the biggest concern at this moment, from my perspective, is the safety of ALL individuals. This bill turns its' back on safety and prioritizes special interest groups while unfairly singling out the wake community. Please consider my testimony when making your decision. Thank you!