

Chairman Witt and members of the committee, I am here to testify in opposition to House bill 2555 and House bill 2725.

My wife and I own a home on the Willamette River between mile marker 42 & 43. We purchased this home because of where it was located on the Willamette River & allowed our type of boat. We were looking to enjoy many years here with our family and friends.

These bills are not based on science or one report that was mentioned, there is no empirical evidence that directly links erosion on the river banks or docks from boats such as mine. In fact there are over 85 home owners that oppose these bills and they do not have any erosion issues or dock damage including myself. As mentioned in yesterday's meeting one home owner mentioned that they were told by experts that there is increased year round erosion due mostly to development on the bank, removing native species, and invasive trees. Also these types of boats do not operate when the salmon runs are in the river. These types of boats for the short couple of months that they run cannot be doing all the damage that is claimed, let's do studies at all times of the year and see what the contributing factors may be before we pass any bills.

There was a homeowner that mentioned she was experiencing erosion and didn't want to pay and go through the correct channels to pin her bank that is eroding so she did it herself. How do we know she did that correctly and is not doing further damage to the bank as well as she did not follow the rules? I would like to mention that this homeowner was allowed to do a slide show and speak for way over the 1 minute mark completely unfair as others who oppose the bill were not allowed to speak.

The Marine Board last year has already moved the surfing and wakeboarding away from the homes and docks, this should be given a chance.

People claim the river is not wide enough for wakeboard/surfboard boats but it is for water-skiers, tubers etc. I had a home in Northern Ca. on the Sacramento Delta and the waterways are much narrower and there is not a problem there

It is important to provide prospective if you are tasked with imposing rules that will not only change the quality of life for people currently enjoying the Willamette River but will damage Real Estate values, decimate businesses that depend on the river & specifically will create overcrowding and safety issues on other waterways should these bills pass.

In a time when people have had enough taken away in the last year with Covid, Wildfires, snow storms etc. we should slow down and do the right thing and investigate and not segregate one group. Times change as all things do and Wakeboard/Wakesurf boats are here to stay one way or another lets try to find a happy medium for all, just because one group doesn't like the change.