

Submitting additional written testimony beyond what was able to do in 1 minute of in-person testimony during the hearing. This is a proposal that goes too far and is blatantly biased if not outright discriminatory to specific members of the community with interests in using the local water ways. It is harmful to both boat owners and all the associated business that sell, service and support boats. Coupling this excise tax together with proposals 2555/2725 that effectively ban all tow-sport activity on the Willamette is terrible. Outlawing these sports already puts extra burden on said boat owners that now must tow and travel to areas much further away, lowers the property value of both our boats and houses (along the river) then asking/requiring us to pay more out of pocket to prevent us from staying local while now having to pay more to travel further (fuel, maintenance, time).

If increased oversight and enforcement is needed then the committee should propose funding this by all river users and/or residents of the county. Boaters already bear the largest burden of funding associated with the fees we pay for registration, fuel, and launches, yet their are hundreds if not thousands of paddlers, rowers, skiers and fishers that do not. Yet, its the latter that are so publicly vocal and opposed to tow boats and tow-sports.

We need a more inclusive and shared solution that doesn't target a specific and singular user group. Also, analysis of existing county budgets should first be reviewed as to understand why the rivers arent appropriately monitored already. Be more efficient and effective with existing budgets and taxes without the first reaction to be levying more taxes.