

My family and I love boating and being on the water, and the Willamette River is where we go most often. I've been boating and participating in towed watersport activities on the Willamette for the past 30 years. Boating is one of the few activities we were able to do last year with the restrictions on so many activities due to the pandemic. This bill would strip an opportunity for safe, socially distant outdoor activities for my family and hundreds of others.

My family is safe and responsible in our boating activities, and I believe the majority of other boaters are as well. I enjoy the Willamette because we can usually find a stretch of river that is not too crowded. Banning wake boats on the Upper Willamette would not only greatly reduce my family's opportunities to enjoy this activity because we will have to travel much further to another body of water, but it will also increase congestion on other bodies of water making our experience less enjoyable and less safe.

This section of our public river is already highly regulated to towed sports, with strict limitations already placed on where towed sports are allowed, and specifically limiting wake surfing to two areas where there are no docks or homes. Rather than introduce more restrictions, the emphasis should be placed on education and enforcement.

I strongly oppose HB 2555.