

This bill will only add to the safety issues on the river. Banning wake boats and towable sports from the Upper Willamette not only destroys boating opportunities for Oregonians, but will add to congestion and safety issues in other bodies of water. The last thing we need is our lakes, State parks and boat ramps overrun by more boaters leaving the river areas that they considered home to find new bodies of water to recreate on. The Covid 19 shutdown was a prime example of what overpopulating boat ramps that stayed open felt like. We were lucky nobody was hit the first day on the water last year in the Newberg Pool. Way too many people in an already congested area due to new restrictions from the last set of rules. Now to close down more areas of the river you're only asking for accidents due to overcrowding. The vast majority of boaters like myself are safe and responsible. We should focus on increased education and enforcement of the existing rules. These bills are not based in science. There is no empirical evidence that directly links erosion on the riverbanks or damage to docks to wake boats. Erosion and dock damage comes from the times that the wake boats are locked away in our garages in the winter months and early spring.

Thank you, Paul Jones