

My family moved to Butteville Road in July 2020, specifically to be on the river and enjoy our boat & towed water sports. One point I want to make is that towed water sports happen about 3 months per calendar year. It has been incredible to watch the changes in the river levels and speed of the current over the winter months. I could count on two hands the number of boats I've witnessed on the river since mid-September. The rise & fall of the river over the past 6 months (mid Sept - mid March) I cannot imagine the impact that has had on the riverbanks. Granted, I am not an environmental scientist but I do have sense enough to know that these factors HAVE to be naturally affecting erosion concerns that so many people that testified were blaming 100% on boats over 4000 lbs. After watching the zoom hearing yesterday, it was quite clear to me that most committee members have their minds made up to oppose the bill. The representatives seemed to be simply going through the motions and "listening" to people that opposed the bill. The most COMMON SENSE testimony I heard was a gentleman that opposed the bill and asked that before rushing to judgement, the rules that are in place need to be enforced. How about starting there? Last summer, I did not witness any law enforcement on the river whatsoever. It is concerning to me that the current rules have only been in force since 2019 and the committee is ready to impose these restrictive bans. The big beef seems to be eliminating all wake surfing. The Newberg Pool has two specific limited areas that allow wake surfing. It would make sense to me that if boats filled their ballasts in the designated wake surf areas, and emptied them when leaving the wake surf area - the problem of huge wakes on the vast majority of the river would be reduced greatly. How about starting there? Also, if the designated wake surf areas were "Wake Surf ONLY" (no waterskiing, wakeboarding, intertubing, etc.) it would reduce the number of boats (i.e. wakes) in those two areas. My most important concern is that people in support of these bills have made it clear in no uncertain terms, that their ultimate goal is NO towed water sports on the Willamette River. I believe that many people in support of the bill are using erosion concerns as an excuse to support their underlying agenda of no more motorized boats at all. How about we are all honest and enforce rules in place while expanding research. Blaming ALL erosion on boat wakes is simply NOT common sense or scientific. Thank you, Amy Sim, Willamette Riverfront Homeowner