

**Date: March 10, 2021**

**To: Chairman Witt and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**From: Sharon Halle, Oregon resident and riverfront farm & homeowner for 28 years**

**Re: Support for HB2555 and HB2725**

I have a simple math problem for the Committee to solve. The Newberg Pool is 580 feet wide on average. The question is, if a wake boat is traveling at the center of the river, what distance is left for the wave to dissipate before hitting the shoreline. The answer is 290 feet. It has been shown by extensive study that 400 ft is the minimum distance it needs to dissipate, not 290 feet. The take away from this math question is that it is not possible in the Newberg Pool for a wave to dissipate before hitting the shoreline.

Therefore as a property owner, I am stuck watching the waves from wake boats carve out my property and others, including the State of Oregon's property along the Newberg Pool. I can't emphasize enough that this stretch of the river is simply not wide enough to accommodate wake boats, ever growing in size (aka displacement), and their destructive waves.

Just as Formula 1 race cars are not allowed on I-5, or Boeing 747s are not allowed to land at Chehalem Airpark, there is a proper place for wake-sports – and it is NOT the Newberg Pool. Far better places for wake sports include: the Columbia River, Detroit Lake, Foster Reservoir, and Hagg Lake.

Also, insistence that the Willamette River is a public waterway and that "*we have every right (aka freedom) to use it for recreation any way we see fit*" ignores the impact it has on all other users – who are in far greater numbers. This includes: motorized craft (fishing, skiing, touring) or non-motorized (paddleboards, kayaks, canoes, swimmers, etc.). Statements that it will bring economic collapse to the boating industry in Oregon are grossly overstated. This industry needs to adjust to the necessary & safe uses for their products. Frankly, trying to recreate ocean-surf conditions on an environmentally delicate, narrow river is simply not right.

Finally, the current 10,000 pound limit set by the OSMB has NO basis or justification. OSMB staff have openly admitted that this was based on a max.-weight for boat launch ramps and intended to ensure that virtually all wake-boats would continue to be allowed on the River.

I am a proud Oregonian and believe there are places for all forms of water-recreation to occur. I am not anti-boating or anti-family. We are asking you to please pass HB 2725 (or HB 2555) because it will bring a better balance between protecting this precious waterway and creating sustainable boating practices in the Newberg Pool.