

I am writing in strong opposition to HB2555 and HB2725. Growing up in Gladstone, OR, I was able to utilize the Willamette River as it was intended. Spending quality time on the water with family and friends water skiing, wake boarding, and tubing was the highlight of every summer. My family never owned a boat, so we relied on family and friends who had them. I wanted nothing more than to someday own my own boat and have access to this amazing river.

After spending 5 years in the Navy and moving all around the country, my wife and I started a family of our own and decided to settle back in the Portland area. We found our dream home in an amazing community in Wilsonville with private dock access for the neighborhood. It is the perfect scenario for boat ownership and the ability to utilize this amazing river. I long to create memories with my children towing them around the river, watching them learn and grow in whatever water-recreation sport they so choose. We have 3 children that are just old enough to start towing around the river in the beautiful Oregon summers. Please don't ruin this opportunity for my children.

Public waterways are intended for the responsible enjoyment and use of the entire community. It is important to recognize that 99% of the power boaters on Oregon waterways are boating with family and friends and are boating responsibly.

Respectfully, I believe that it is important to provide perspective if you are tasked with imposing rules that will change the quality of life for thousands of people currently enjoying the Willamette River yet you personally do not boat or live on this body of water.

Over the past several years many pleasure boaters that enjoy wakeboarding and wake surfing have adhered to the imposed requirements to travel a significant number of miles round trip in order to get to a designated "zone" to participate in their desired sport. That same boater has been required to take, pass and pay for a Towed Water Sports Education Program above and beyond the Oregon State Boaters License that canoe, kayak and paddle boarders using the waterway are NOT required to take. These courses and endorsements come with additional fees in order for pleasure boaters to lawfully operate their boats. Should the boat owner personally wish to get in the water and participate in the sport, the person then taking the helm is also required to study, pass and pay for the additional educational programs. A family of 4 incur an additional expense of \$240 every 2 years just for the right to participate in these watersports above and beyond the time and expense involved in acquiring an Oregon Boater's license. Now those in support of these bills wish to eliminate the vast majority of the pleasure boats on the Willamette River with the proposed weight limits; and recommend that the few remaining pleasure boats that meet the 4000 lb weight restriction be taxed further!

The specific power boaters that these restrictions are currently aimed at attacking, are inarguably the most financially invested and educated recreational boater currently on the river. They have to take more steps through education to boat on the river, and they certainly have to pay more money to utilize the same public waterway given access to non-power boaters without the burden of this expense. Yet, this particular boater is still being persecuted and attacked

It should be said that a vast majority of power boaters also own and participate in paddle boarding, kayaking and canoeing on the river. Some would have you believe that these are two

completely separate boaters. I would invite you to take a boat ride down the river and witness how many power boaters also have paddle boards, kayaks and/or canoes on their docks or with their boat.

I also recognize that recreational boating in our amazing state contributes to a significant number of jobs, businesses and millions of dollars of revenue for the people and state of Oregon and Clackamas County.

We (power boaters wishing to responsibly recreate on the river) have jumped through every "hoop" required in order to continue to enjoy the use of our public waterway; and now there is yet another request to strip our freedom to enjoy the river. I am respectfully requesting that you decline this request of further regulation and restriction through HB2695, HB2725 and HB2555.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Tyler Way