

I oppose this bill wholeheartedly. This bill prohibits the vast majority of boats already present on the Willamette from operating on the river. Passing this bill would cause a massive environmental issue. Many boat owners on the river would have to purchase a new boat if this bill passed. The number of resources it takes to produce a boat is staggeringly large, and considering the climate crisis we are in at the moment, this would have disastrous results. The small businesses that operate near the river would be desperately impacted by this bill as well because they would need to change their inventory entirely, which would cause even more unnecessary waste and effort on their part. This bill will be overall ineffective because many people learn to love the environment by experiencing the river, and to take that away from many people could have disastrous effects. The many years I have spent boating have taught me about the importance of protecting the environment because I love it so much. It is simply unethical to support legislation that will make it harder for people to spend time outdoors.