

I oppose this bill. Boating is an outdoor, COVID-safe activity; this bill would prevent many people from going out and engaging in watersports in a safe way. After over a year of the virus affecting us, Oregonians deserve as many opportunities to get outside as possible for our mental and physical health. My family and I would likely have to travel to a different body of water to engage in watersports, as I imagine many other families would do if this bill would pass. Obviously, this results in an increase in traffic to other bodies of water which could contribute to bank erosion as well as spread COVID because those who live on the river would need to travel. Most boaters on the river are safe and follow the rules. A more rational solution to these issues would be to require more education for boaters and increase patrolling and monitoring on busy days. I cannot get behind a bill that does not show any direct evidence that wake boats adversely affect banks. Additionally, this bill would cause small businesses that rely on the customers that come to the river to lose revenue because they will see a reduction in business. I firmly oppose this bill.