

From: Steve Landis – lgpropertymail@gmail.com

RE: HB 2725 Willamette River Restrictions

Water sports and boats have changed a lot in the last 10 years as Wakeboarding and Wake Surfing sports have grown. Both require bigger wakes made by bigger boats. As such, I support the new towed sports rules that have been recently implemented.

That said, I do not support a general boat weight restriction of 4000 lbs...especially on a public waterway such as the upper Willamette. Here's why:

- 1) This unfairly restricts many boats (including MINE) who are not the cause of some of the larger wakes stated as the problem, or the drivers who are not following the current rules regarding wake zones and distances from docs.
- 2) It limits public waterways for the benefit of private property owners who assumed the risk of water and wakes when they chose to own on the Willamette.
- 3) There is not enough data to show erosion is from boats versus water levels that rise 20-30 feet each year on the upper Willamette
- 4) This measure would cause significant financial harm businesses and communities that support boaters...from restaurant owners, to boat dealers and servicers. Also, property owners who have invested in river front properties in order to be able to enjoy watersports.
- 5) There is no validated reason to RUSH approval of this bill. Enforce the rules already put in place (which were very loosely enforced in 2020). Do a real unbiased Environmental Study.

I grew up enjoying watersports on the river. My wife and kids (now in their 20's) love watersports and we have spent years and countless days on the river. This bill would prevent us from putting our boat on the river as it's just over 4000 lbs. Restricting this is over simplifying the problem.