

Good afternoon-

I have spent my entire life playing on the Willamette River. As a girl, our family activity was to spend most weekends on our boat in the Newberg Pool. Now my husband and I spend every weekend with our kids on our own boat on the Willamette. We consider the significant investment we have made in our boat as an investment into our family. As our teenagers age, they still love spending time with the family specifically because of the time we spend together each weekend on the river. Something we couldn't do if we had to travel several hours to a lake. If HB2555 were to pass, we would not be able to use our boat in this section of river at all.

I agree that it is important to be respectful of property owners along the river and preserve their property. I know a few people who have homes along the river, when they voice their viewpoint to me it sounds as though they are trying to create a private body of water, similar to Lake Oswego, instead of acknowledging that they live along a very busy public waterway. Just last year, extensive regulations were added along the Newberg Pool which increased the required education and included additional fees for boaters in that area. I was fine with the added education and feel that many people need it. These new regulations have only been in effect for 1 year, which is not truly long enough to completely educate the public and have a good idea of lasting benefits/drawbacks.

Further regulating this stretch of the river will only create more congestion in other areas of the river which is very dangerous. Last year, with the new regulations in place, it created so much congestion that we would pull our boat out by 1:00 pm because I no longer felt it was safe to have people in the water. Most boaters truly want to be safe and respectful, but further restricting wakesports and where they can be enjoyed will only exacerbate the problem of congestion and safety.

Thank you for considering both sides of this issue. Please preserve this public resource for all members of the community, not just homeowners along the river. Please vote against HB2555.