

To whom it may concern,

I am reaching out to you because I have many concerns about restrictions on water sports on the Willamette. Here are a few of the many reasons why boaters should be allowed to participate in water sports on any part of the river:

- The rivers belong to the whole community, not just the select group of people with property on the water.
- The proposed regulations will only make more congestion and create more safety hazards among boaters.
- Recreational boating helps support almost 6,000 Oregon small businesses, and these restrictions would only hurt them.
- Overregulation will not solve any problems, education and enforcement is the right answer to create a safe river for everyone.
- Water sports such as wakeboarding, wake surfing, waterskiing, and more are a huge part of summer for many families.
- Water sports are shown to have very little effect on marine life, which can be seen in many studies across the country.

Personally speaking, boating and specifically wake surfing has been a huge part of my life forever. I started surfing between my dad's legs when I was 3, and I've been hooked ever since. Boating had become my escape during the summer and all I can think about during the winter. Every summer my family and I log over 100 running hours on our Malibu, which my parents worked very hard to be able to afford. Restricting use of the Willamette River would be taking away an experience that so many people cherish. I can't even imagine how devastated I would be if these restrictions were put into place.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration!