

Chair Witt and members of the committee,

My name is Matt Radich, I am an avid user of the Willamette River and the president of Active Water Sports, an Oregon small business. I am here today to voice my passionate opposition to House Bills 2555 and 2725; They are misguided, overreaching and will have detrimental effects on waterway access, waterway safety and Oregon small businesses. They are in the simplest terms, an unnecessary ban on family activities.

I would also like to voice my concerns about the due process these bills have been given. It is quite obvious that this has been a one-sided affair and I, as a citizen of Oregon, believe both sides should be given equal consideration. I am asking each one of you on this committee to be thoughtful and critical when considering these bills.

Here are just a few things to think about:

- The activities that would be restricted are something Oregonians want to do: There are currently over 40,000 registered recreational power boats in Oregon. Have you considered how this will affect the user group as a whole?
- New regulations set by the Marine Board have only been in place for one season > In the 20 miles of river we are addressing here, you can only wake surf on 3 of those miles, the other 17 miles effectively have a zero-pound weight limit. Why do we need more restricted areas?
- Why has there not been more efforts to better enforce the existing rules?
- If we are doing this for environmental reasons, we should be talking about all boats. Why are towed-sports boats being singled out?
- If we are doing this for safety reasons, have you considered how safety will be drastically reduced in other areas that will become more congested? Have you reached out to the various river patrols that will be affected?
- Why was there no outreach to the boating community when these bills were being written?
- Have other alternatives been looked in to?
- The "Science" that has been referenced as proof that wake boats need to be limited to 4,000lbs is nothing more than three different individuals addressing the "potential" effects of boat waves on the riverbanks. No studies have been done that show wake boat waves have any more of an effect on shorelines than any other boat. How can you put such a punitive restriction on certain activities before you understand the full issue?

This is just a brief list of the many questions that should be answered before moving forward.

These bills are being rammed through with zero input from the boating community. There is absolutely no reason to rush into this and adopt bad policy. I have offered many times in the past to be a resource and work as a member of a group to come up with viable and cooperative solutions. None of the proponents of this bill have ever reached out to me, or anyone in the boating community, for that matter.

I urge you to stop these bills and begin a new path where we can work together to come up with cooperative, long-term solutions.

Thank you,

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