

I am a homeowner and boater and not represented by any others who claim to speak for me.

I am **in favor of lowering the current** boat weight limit to some degree **on wake sports only (ie wakesurfing and wakeboarding).**

I am definitely NOT in favor of a weight limit or decal program for waterskiing, tubing, airchairs, etc. This program should not apply to ALL towed sports.

I do think that there should be a lower weight restriction than the current allowed 10,000 lbs on wake sports. Although I don't necessarily think it needs to be as low as 4000lbs. I support a reduction because there continues to be a certain minority of affluent boaters who can afford \$150,000 to \$200,000 dollar boats weighing 4 to 5 tons, who are creating the unreasonably huge waves. These giant waves are dangerous and interfere with the ability of the majority of people (other boaters, paddlers, fisherman, skiers and swimmers) to recreate in a relatively safe environment, if at all.

The reality is that the vast majority of people do not need a 4 to 5 ton boat creating a tsunami size wake in order to wakeboard or even surf. Both sports can be performed behind much smaller craft creating much smaller wakes, even as small as the boat shown below.



In 2008 the State had already recognized that there was a problem with large wakes on the Newberg Pool and instituted a WED (wake enhancing device) ban. Yet certain users

continued to fill their ballast tanks and buy bigger and heavier boats designed to create even bigger and more powerful waves. Instead of compromise and moderation on the part of the boating industry and certain users the response was wakes that increased every year with no end in sight. This unwillingness on the part of certain users to contain the size of wakes is what has caused the problems and the need for other forced regulation.

Dr. MacFarlane who conducted the Willamette river boat wake study in 2018 stated to your committee last week that it would take **400 ft** to **MITIGATE, not dissipate**, but merely mitigate the wakes from surfing behind a large wakeboat and **300ft** for wakeboarding. The distances quoted by Dr. MacGregor from his study did not even include data on the largest/heaviest boats available in 2018 let alone those now available. Thus in many cases the distances to mitigate the waves would have to be far greater.

That study is all about the impact on shorelines and docks. But think about the size and impact of these waves on those who are actually out on the river. There are no distances to mitigate the impact. The waves are dangerous to other users and keep smaller craft from being able to engage in towed sports.

Other smaller boats have trouble even maneuvering through the waves and even at no wake speed: video: <https://youtu.be/4ZL1IHqZez4>



I have personally had people thrown from their seats in my small boat even when we have slowed to no wake speed. Trying to perform any kind of towed sport in a small craft while the big wakeboats are boarding or surfing is impossible. Even tubing is

extremely dangerous as the waves not only toss the boat but send the tubers flying through the air.



Which brings me to why I am **OPPOSED** to adding all towed sports to this legislation. As shown above, smaller craft cannot even engage in towed sports when the big surf boats are out. Many only want to ski or tube. To force these boats into the decal program designed for wakesports is ridiculous. It would unreasonably penalize boaters who are not the problem and who already are having trouble being able to engage in towed sports at all due to the huge waves.

Again, while I **support a smaller boat weight limit for WAKE SPORTS**, because I do not believe you have to have to make dangerous waves in order to have fun and family time on the river, **I do not support the inclusion of all towed sports in the program**. I hope that the Committee will not amend that portion of the bill. Please only address the real problem wake makers who take away the “rights” of the rest of the public to enjoy the river.

Leslie Harris