

These bills would strip safe, socially distant outdoor opportunities for hundreds of families along the Willamette River. Parents would no longer be able to pull their kids on a tube with the affordable, multi-purpose boat like a Bayliner Trophy. This section of the river is already highly regulated to towed sports with wake surfing only allowed in two areas where there are no docks or homes. This will only add to the safety issues on the river. Banning wake boats from the Upper Willamette not only destroys boating opportunities for Oregonians, but it will add to congestion and safety issues in other bodies of water. The vast majority of boaters are safe and responsible. We should focus on increased education and enforcement of the existing rules. There is no empirical evidence that directly links erosion on the banks of the river or damage to docks to wake boats. Not only that, but wake sports are already prohibited in sections of the Upper Willamette with adjacent homes. These bills will decimate small businesses that depend on the river. Recreational boating brings \$1.6 billion in annual economic impact to Oregon and supports almost 6,000 jobs and more than 400 businesses, including marinas, gas stations, mechanics, restaurants, dealers and more. This year, we need to be squarely focused on bolstering small business recovery and fueling our local economy.