

Opposing HB 2725 & 2555

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Oregon Legislature,

The proposed Bills HB 2755 and HB 2555 will impose unfair restrictions on use of a public waterway for the benefit of a few and with restrictions (specifically boat weight restrictions) that poorly target the real issues of boat safety and protecting the river environment. More importantly these bills would virtually eliminate decade's long enjoyment of watersports for our family of 4 and MANY friends who we've enjoyed the river with for years via a general weight restriction that does not necessarily translate to the wake issues discussed in the testimony on this legislation.

The problem of boaters causing too large of wakes and or too close to docs, etc...is a problem caused by a few, but with the proposed bill restricting the majority of boat owners and river front property owners. Please just enforce the towed sports rules just put in place. It will work.

Studies of the impact of boat wakes on the environment should be independently done, not proposed by those with special interest. Passing legislation with such broad restrictions on public waterways should be done with real, unbiased data....including impacts of water rising and falling on the river, not just boat wakes.

The financial impact is this bill is significant...and could be proposed at a worse time. A massive amount of businesses and people support and earn a living from the boater community. Most property owners paid premiums to own river front property to ENJOY watersports. Significant investments were made for property, docs, and lifts....on a PUBLIC WATERWAY. These owners would have a significantly limited benefit and negatively impact river front property values.

Please don't rush this. Get real data for the decision process and apply restrictions that solve the real problems....mostly caused by a few.