

# Please Vote NO on HB2555 AND HB2725

Chair Witt, members of the committee, my name is Jodie Schulte, and I'm providing written testimony in strong opposition to HB 2555 and HB 2725.



First let me say how disappointed and outraged I am with how Chair Witt conducted his kangaroo court like public testimony session. Allowing Joanne Criscione to speak uninterrupted for over 30 min and along with presenting multimedia materials in support of his bill without allowing the opportunity of anyone that is in opposition to state their position is downright unethical. I can't believe this is how our political process works. Rep Witt is Judge, Jury and Executioner. Joanne Criscione has absolutely no education, experience or qualifications to make any statements related to erosion, towed watersports, hydraulics, environmental impacts etc. In fact, none of the presenters Chair Witt lined up to read prepared statements are qualified to speak on this topic but were allowed to make misleading and baseless statements without being held accountable. When public testimony was allowed Chair Witt cherry picked speakers from his list that showed who was for or against his personal bill while reducing normal testimony time from 3 min to 1 min. There were 150 people waiting online and the overwhelming majority were in opposition, but Rep Witt continued his calculated plan and packing the testimony in his favor. This would not hold up in a Court of Law and we are a Country built on Laws for a reason.

I am Oregonian who has recreated on the stretch of the Willamette also refereed to as the Newberg Pool for over 50 years. I am currently a river front home owner for the last 20 years in the City of Wilsonville and have raised my family boating on the river teaching my daughters, their friends and friends of friends in all the towed water sports these two bills seek to restrict and depending on certain criterial all out banning these outdoor

family activities. By setting legislation restricting “towed water sports” on Oregon waterways based some arbitrarily characteristic of dry weight plus factory installed ballasts is not to proper is not the solution to any issue perceived or real.

OSMB working with a diverse set of committee members representing various constituent interests just enacted a new boaters safety program, new fees, new zones for certain activities such as wake surfing. These new surf only zones are in areas where there are no docks as to eliminate any concerns of damage to personal property of physical safety.

Regardless if the number is 4000 or 6000 or some other arbitrary number picked out of the air, a significant number of Oregonians own a families would be greatly impacted by any further restrictions of not only loosing the ability to recreated but who have made significant investments in a healthy family recreation activity.

Regarding claims of erosion and the cause – there have been no scientific studies performed on this stretch of the Willamette that have proven that boating or even more specifically boats performing certain recreational activities such as wake boarding or wake surfing have any measurable impact bank erosion.

A vector analysis study on the wave action and the hydraulic impacts by a license Geotechnical Engineer must be done before anyone can evaluate the effect of boating on erosion in the Newberg pool. This has never been done.

Personally, we maintain our bank with proper bank vegetation and have had absolutely NO erosion issues other than from the rising and lowering of water as much as 20’ and trees on the edge of the bank being blown over in wind storms.

**This is what the River looks like this year when it rains. You didn't see any of these pictures in any of the presentations. This is nature's erosion and it is 100k times more destructive than any boating activity in the summer.**



Here is the bank erosion, ivy lined banks with no stabilizing vegetation, high water and trees such as cotton woods on the shoreline. This has nothing to do with boating and has been occurring for hundreds/thousands of years.



The towed water sport that is performed the most on the river, that is perhaps the most dangerous to kids and produces just as large a wake as surfing regardless of the weight of the boat is TUBING. Why not ban tubing by any size of boat? Why, because Rep Witt and his friends would see that many more people stand up for their rights to Oregon Water Recreation.

When questioned, Joanne Criscione openly admitted her goal was to remove all power boats from the river. How can one delusional person be speaking on behalf of the 350 plus river front owners and the thousands of tax paying constituents who vote Representatives to support their rights?

Regarding safety – I have my family, parents, grandparents, kids of all ages always on my dock on busy weekends and we have NEVER had one safety incident. I have had to rescue kayakers and paddlers using our boat or jetski in the winter months when untraining, inexperience paddlers go out and lose control and fall in the water due to the strong currents.

We have are daughter's birthday party on our dock every July on a busy weekend with 20 or 30 kids without incident. We work with Wake the World and volunteer our boats and time to take show Foster Kids what these sports are like. It latterly changes their lives.

You want to take this away from them?



**I respectfully request you the vote NO and simply allow the new OSMB education and rules have time to mature and let the OSMB review and refine as needed.**

**These bills came out of no where and have been moving at warp speed for some unknown reason. We are all suffering from a year of a Global Pandemic which as effected every American, we have lost over 500,000 human lives, Oregon was devastated by wildfires and the horrible issues regarding social injustice. How can these bills be considered a Representatives priority given all the suffering occurring in Oregon and America right now?**

**Respectfully,**

**Jodie Schulte**