

Thanks to the committee on rules for allowing citizens to submit comment on this matter. This proposed regulation was already raised in the Oregon House and the House declined to move forward. My family and I have been boating safely and responsibly in the Newberg Pool section of the Willamette River for almost 35 years. This public waterway has been the source of safe, outdoor family fun and economic activity for this area for that entire time. These proposed regulations are not based in science but simply reflect the preferences of a few riverfront homeowners who should have been aware that this type of activity is common in this section of the Willamette prior to purchasing their property. This legislation, if passed, would deny thousands of Oregon families the opportunity for safe, socially distanced recreation on this public waterway because of the interests of a few. The last 18 months has highlighted the need for outdoor recreation for the mental health of our community. Further studies are needed to determine what, if any action is necessary to manage this waterway. This is already one of the most heavily regulated waterways in Oregon. An arbitrary decision on the types of boats that would and would not be permitted to access it would be reactionary and detrimental to the citizens that have enjoyed it for years. Thank you.