

I have recreationally boated on the upper and lower Willamette river since 1984 in a variety of vessels. HB 2351 makes no sense as it relates to shoreline protection, wildlife and personal property damage.

1. Each and every year, the Willamette river water level and current increase tremendously during the winter months. This “high water” causes severe damage to most shorelines, which is evidenced every spring with visibly erosion and tree sublimation. Personal property damage during these high water episodes is also evidenced by the lost of docks, damaged pilings and flooded yards/greenways.
2. The wakes created by wakeboard/surf vessels is nominal in comparison to the hydro-excavation caused by high water events.
3. Laws already exist but are not enforced to protect shoreline and property. Vessels are required to adhere to no wake zones when posted and must remain a minimum of 200 feet from any dock or moorage. I see too many vessel operators, of all sizes, violating these basic rules.
4. I have worked with Oregon Fish & Wildlife and have not seen any impact to marine wildlife due to use of wakeboarding or surf style vessels. Moreover, the use of shallow draft jet skies and jet propulsion fishing boats running close to shore or in shallow water, have caused significant damage to spawning and egg laying environments.

HB 2351 unfairly singles out boat operations specific to wake boarding and wake surfing as a contributing cause to shoreline erosion, wildlife and property damage. I will say from experience that most all wake boat operators have a higher level of vessel safety and etiquette. Thank you.

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