

I am writing to you today to voice my concern regarding the Oregon State Marine Board's new and proposed regulations on the lower Willamette River. I have lived in Oregon the majority of my life and have spent the past 50+ years enjoying the Willamette River as a boater and paddle boarder. It has become increasingly concerning to me that the OSMB is trying to take away the rights of boaters on the Willamette River.

This river has always been a source of enjoyment and pleasure for our family. Not only did I learn to ski here as a child, but my children spent their summers with their friends on this waterway learning to ski, wake board, surf and innertube. We have spent countless hours on this water and have encouraged safety and fun for many generations of youth. In a time where many kids are getting caught up in their mobile devices and social media, why not encourage more family's to enjoy the pleasures of boating and enjoying time as a family? In the current environment, it seems unconscionable that one entity would try to take away what many have found to be a fun, safe and pleasurable experience the entire family can participate in and enjoy. There are numerous waterways throughout our glorious state that non-motorized sports can be enjoyed on, there is no benefit to the state in taking away boaters privileges here on the Willamette River.

The Willamette River belongs to the entire community – not just a select group of folks. I can personally attest to the ability for all to enjoy this river as I enjoy boating as well as paddling. There is absolutely no reason to limit boaters access on this river.

I would love to see a stronger education and enforcement enacted for all water users – not exclusion and overregulation. This is the way to encourage safe water use for all. The current proposed regulations, are dangerous and will increase congestion in the useable areas thus increasing safety hazards on other parts of the river.

I strongly oppose your new restrictions both as a boat owner and as a tax paying citizen that resides on the Willamette River.

Sincerely,

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