

I live in Wilsonville in the Renaissance Boat Club subdivision. We have lived in Oregon for 71 years, all our lives, in all three counties (Washington, Clackamas, and Yamhill). Also, we currently have properties in all three counties. I am writing this letter because I have been seeing what's happening on the Willamette River...people enjoying it! I'm strongly OPPOSED to House bill 2555!!

This past summer was very unusual. The state had everybody locked down, no kids sporting activities and a lot more people unemployed. We had a ski boat when we moved to Wilsonville, it was a smaller one. But when the lockdown happened we purchased a larger boat so all the family can participate. 2020 was different than past years, there were a lot more boats on the river because everything else was shut down and it was a safe outdoor activity. People were buying new boats, and a lot of people didn't know the rules and laws of the river. One rule is you cannot use wake enhancing devices out of the wake surf zones. The other is the boat owner is responsible for the boat's wake. This has never been enforced on the river! Also, the surf zones were ignored because they weren't labeled, put a sign that says SURF ZONE ONLY so everybody knows, instead of a yellow buoy. We saw many people not following the new rules, which weren't enforced! Before you make tougher restrictions see how the current restrictions will help and give them some time to work by enforcing them. People don't know the current restrictions and the signage is terrible! Put up maps at the boat ramps so people know the rules when they enter the river. This will help keep the surfing to a designated area.

Bill 2555 says that boat's cannot be over 4000 lbs. A 3000 lbs boat can make the same wake as a boat over 4000lbs, so what is the difference?

Also, the boat docks are a privilege to have on the river. If the property owner doesn't have a dock that can withstand a wake you need to upgrade your boat dock. That's not the fault of the boats on the river. Their property line ends at the river bed, the Willamette river is a navigable waterway. more erosion happens in the winter months than the summer, currently the water is higher than it will ever be from a surf boat wake in the summer.

Additionally, if this passes along with the new regulations for the Oregon City to Portland Willamette restrictions, the only place to Wake surf would be at Willamette Park in West Linn. This will be a major safety concern, too many boats in one area. That area is already at maximum capacity; lack of parking, boat ramp always backed up, people crammed on the boat dock, kayakers entering the water way from Tualatin river, houseboats along the southeast side, and restrictions with the Falls and Narrows. You'll have a mass amount of people and boats in that small area.

If this passes my value in my house will go down, along with all the other properties on the river.

Sincerely,
George and Marijo Johnston