

Testimony for HB 2555
by Amanda Ellertson
5933 North Williams Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97217
melletso@pcc.edu
5033109848

I don't have the money, or desire, to purchase a recreation wake boat. However, I do like to visit the Willamette River - especially the Newberg Pool - and take a swim and/or paddle a canoe. However, it has been increasingly difficult to gain any pleasure from this recreational experience as wake boats take up so much space, make terrible noise, and ruin any chance of a peaceful swim or paddle. In short, wake boats ruin the river experience for many. To compound the noise and large wave problems, these expensive boats are also causing damage to the ecosystems of our beloved river. I understand there are bodies of water that are much more suitable for this sort of recreation activity. Places in Oregon that don't destroy the environment, erode the soil and make using the river hell for those trying to swim or paddle. This is why I am supporting these House Bills. By ignoring this problem, the legislature disregards the legacy of conservatorship of our water ways in Oregon. Wake Boat dealers and owners claim they have a right to use the river and the freedom to do so. This attitude creates a toxic privilege that tramples on other people's access to our public water ways. Please support these bills that will help all Oregonians to enjoy the beauty of our states water and preserving the eco systems that we value and treasure.