

Dear Members of the Oregon House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

I am writing you in support for HB 2555 as well as HB 2695. Both are necessary to protect Willamette River ecology, broad-based recreational use, and property rights of river bank owners. Boats designed to generate giant artificial waves cause problems in all these portions in the Newberg Pool area of the Willamette. HB 2555 addresses this problem responsibly. In addition, broader representation on the Oregon State Marine Board—including environmental expertise, property owners, and tribal interests—would help insure that all stakeholders have a seat at the table. HB 2695 sets the right direction for future oversight of the Willamette River and other waterways in Oregon.

My wife and I live along the Willamette in Wilsonville and my wife loves kayaking, as do many of her friends. Wake boats weighing 10,000 pounds or more to create ocean-sized waves would make it impossible for her and everyone else in paddle crafts or on paddle boards to recreate on the Newberg Pool portion of the Willamette. Wake boats would make their recreation a nightmare and would, I predict, drive many, if not most, of them off the Willamette. Also, it does not take an expert to understand that these wake boats would damage river bank ecology and aggravate erosion with their artificially created surfing-size waves. Would you be comfortable with a result that gives one relatively small set of recreationists rights to use the river and drives off the vast majority of users?

Please lend your voice in support of HB 2555 and HB 2695

Thank you for your consideration,  
Eric Hoem  
Wilsonville, OR