

Dear Representatives:

I am writing in support for HB 2555 and HB 2695. Last year, Kaspar Murer and I testified to the *Natural Resources Committee Special Meeting on Safety* following the accidents in the Willamette on Sept. 18, 2019. What we said that day in support of HB2351 and HB 2352 applies today to the bills before you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5EyjAYwEJ>



The bottom line from our 2019 testimony is that wake boats are new to the scene and different from traditional boats. With heavier dry loading weights, more ballast capacity and smarter electronic wake-enhancing devices, they generate artificial waves that escalate the hazards for every other user on the river.

In the past three years, scientific studies, Legislative testimony, and Oregon Marine Board hearings have painted picture of a triple threat to the Upper and Lower Willamette:

1. Increasing size, weight and ballast capacity of wake-generating sport boats.
2. Increasing numbers of non-motorized sport users in the Willamette River. municipality planning focus on inclusivity and river access for non-motorized users.
3. Increasing artificial waves scour the river causing summertime erosion, fish habitat loss, and turbidity, which regularly exceeds the state and federal guidelines under the Clean Water Act.

Wake boats comprise a very small number of river users and voters. The damage they do and danger they cause is disproportionately greater than the number of boats. There are relatively few boats which do all the damage here and across the country. The wake sport industry is pressuring state legislators to allow a minority sport to negatively impact all other users , as well as the rivers and waterways.

We have a chance to reset our recreational plan for the wake sports. There are many waterways in Oregon where wakeboarding and wake surfing can be done safely, such as Green Peter Dam, Detroit Lake, and Lake Billy Chinook, as well as the Columbia River. The Willamette River, above downtown Portland, is not one of them. I encourage you to support these bills for our waterways and the vast majority of people of Oregon. Thank you.

Renee Morgan, Portland

