

We purchased a home in the Newberg Pool in 2016. At the time of our purchase, we looked forward to exploring and enjoying the Willamette River whether that be fishing, swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding or water skiing. Little did we know that we would experience wake boats scouring our embankment all summer and damaging our dock, particularly in 2019 after the OSMB implemented surf zones in the Newberg Pool. You see, the area we purchased our home in, has been referred to as the Hell Zone. Having a surf zone in front of your home is like having a Nascar Speedway in front of your home without the appropriate facility and staff to care for it. This results in untold damage to the area caused by the surfers using it and hazardous conditions making it such an unpleasant environment our family could not even sit on our dock let alone fish, kayak, paddle board, swim and water ski. It was simply too crowded in our narrow stretch of the river with numerous wake boats speeding back and forth in front of our home. The wake surfers with their massive boats were fortunate enough to be able to bring their wake boats to this area, surf and drink all day and then go home. These boaters take absolutely no responsibility for their actions. Not once have I heard one of these boaters express an interest in coming to observe the damage they've done to this area or ask if they could do anything to take care of the damage they've caused. In fact, we are often picking up cans and other trash along the shores of our river and haven't caught fish off our dock since before 2019. This is only one of the many reasons I'm in support of HB 2725. Don't let the boating industry fool you with their lies! This bill will not shut down boating, it only makes boating safer and more sustainable for all of us to enjoy!