

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Regarding HB 2555 and HB 2725

Hello, my name is Eric Lintner. I have lived on the Willamette River just west of Wilsonville since 1987. During that time, I've enjoyed many forms of watersports, including mainly waterskiing and kayaking, but also wakeboarding and wake surfing. In this time, I have seen quite a change in the boats used and the wakes created.

I have a few points I would like to make:

- Towed watersports used to happen behind boats of 16 to 20 feet that weighed less than 3000 pounds. It was with the advent of wakeboarding and then wake surfing that the boats and wakes started to grow. NOTE: it is possible to have fun behind a 2500lb boat, even wake surf.
- In general, the heavier a boat is relative to its buoyancy, the lower in the water it will float and the more water it will displace under power. When a heavy wake boat moves through the water, it creates a large empty spot that water will rush to fill. In simplified terms, it is this combination of movement and a large displacement that creates the exceptionally large wake.
- At some point, a boat is simply too large and makes too big of waves for certain areas. The Newberg Pool with its narrow width and soft banks is quite obviously such an area.
- The boating industry is purposefully making it sound as if the only boats available are large boats designed to make huge wakes. Certain organizations are also claiming that this is all about family fun. I believe that 20 years ago families were having fun in boats that weren't causing the damage of today's wake boats. I don't want to outlaw family fun or boating, but I believe that some boats create too large of a wake for the Newberg Pool.
- An essential part of fun family boating would seem to be respecting the ability of others to use the river, respecting the property of people living on the river and protecting the river habitat now and for the future. I'm surprised that those with wake boats seem to be able to have their fun while ignoring these other concerns. Sometimes, it feels like there is a bully on the playground or someone driving too fast through the neighborhood where your kids are playing. It's not family friendly or even safe.
- The wake boaters like to make an argument that it is the "family boaters" against the "rich landowners". Yes, I'm a landowner and I'm blessed with a place on the Willamette, but I bought it in 1987 and it wasn't expensive. In fact, a wake boat can easily cost \$150K and up which is more than my 2 acres and house cost in 1987. These wake boaters are certainly not poor.

I was involved in this issue 10-15 years ago when the first Marine Board administrative rules were made in an attempt to mitigate the effect of wake sports in the Newberg Pool. Those rules were not enforced and the boats continue to grow. The damage is accelerating. Please vote to limit the size of boats by approving HB 2555 and 2725.

Thank you
Eric Lintner
Wilsonville