

Dear Members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

I am a resident of more than 20 years in Wilsonville OR about 1.8 miles upstream of the I-5 bridge. My property is on the waterfront with a permitted dock.

I am writing you to express concern about the size and frequency of large wakes produced by watercraft on the river. Operators of wake surfing and wake boarding boats frequently do not observe the current rules which is resulting in unsafe conditions for my family to enjoy the river and our property.

I am deeply concerned about the safety of those enjoying the river. This damaging behavior is endangering children, pets, small boats, kayakers, swimmers, fishing and other users of the river.

Additionally, I worry about the environmental damage it is doing to the river and its banks and the wildlife that depend on it. I believe the environmental viability of the Willamette River is threatened especially in the narrow section of the Newberg Pool by these large wake-producing boats and boating behavior. Frankly, the river cannot handle it.

Please support HB 2555 and HB2725. These bills will go a long way to helping improve all recreation in the Newberg Pool and reduce environmental damage to the river and its habitat.

HB 2555/2725 are NOT about banning boats. I have a boat and it is an appropriate weight for this environmentally sensitive section of the river. The wake sports community is calling this a ban. Shame on them. They are just mad and promoting falsehoods about the number of boats that this would affect. It is minimal. And, they will still be able to recreate in the river. Just not doing things that irreversibly damage it.

I support recreational uses of the river provided that those activities don't endanger others or harm the river. The Upper Willamette is simply too narrow, fragile, developed and congested to balance the needs of all users without some type of wake control measures in place.

I urge you to support these bills and do the right thing for Oregon and The Willamette River. Doing so will help protect safety, shoreline, property within the Willamette Greenway and ensure this treasured recreational resource will continue for a wide range of recreation uses for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Grieve