

I oppose HB 2555. This bill is unnecessary and limits the use of the Willamette river to a small population. The 4,000-pound weight limit in HB 2555 is not a restriction—it's practically an outright ban on towing that kicks off more than two-thirds of the families who recreate in the Newberg Pool. We are long time boaters who are responsible with our wake use, follow the rules of the water, and respect others on the water. The Newberg Pool is already one of the most highly regulated waterways in Oregon. Wakesurfers and wakeboarders are already limited to a 3-mile, mostly uninhabited stretch of the river. They are also subject to additional safety certifications, annual taxes and existing weight limits. Rather than banning river use to a subset of the population, there should be opportunities for all to use the river, with a focus on boating education (for motorized and non-motorized boaters) and enforcement of the current laws.