

I am writing in opposition of this bill, HB2725. I do not believe that enough study and thought has gone into this bill. First of all, the specification of 4000 pounds maximum weight seems arbitrary, especially in light of lack of any studies to support the limit. In fact, it appears that possible course of action if the bills including this one pass is to open an investigation at a later date to establish if the 4000 pound limit is correct or should be increased. I respectfully request that additional studies be performed on the impact of this law before the passage of any legislation to this effect. Secondly, as a resident of a house located on the Willamette River, I question why additional laws are needed at this time. We regularly use the river for recreation, including power boating, personal water craft (a wave runner), fishing, and kayaking. I have no issue with the requirements already in place that mandate boater safety training. In addition, rules limiting wake surfing to small areas of the river and requiring safe distancing from docks and shore for wake boat sports are already in place. But as we have observed, there is little enforcement taking place to assure these rules are followed. In fact, calling the Sheriffs office to report un lawful wake surfing is usually just met with a response of nothing we can do. It is unsafe for lawful users without enforcement. As to damage to the river front, if the rules as written are enforced I do not believe any will occur. In fact, all the erosion damage near our home has been due to storm water run off from the streets of Wilsonville, a fact not in question as the city has recently completed several expensive projects to safely run water into the river by remediating the previous run off channels that were damaging the banks. The number of people who are safely using the river for recreation will be severely impacted by this law. Such recreation is a wonderful way for families to enjoy the outdoors without fear, which certainly isn't the case with many other activities in recent days. Finally, the economic impact of banning wake boats from the river will be excessively harsh on the many small businesses that support and provide services to boat owners. For these many reasons and more, I respectfully request that you vote against this legislation proceeding forward.

Thank you for your service,
Charles Schramm, PhD