

3/8/2021

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Re: Public Hearing on HB2555 and HB2725

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to the proposed OSMB rules regarding watercraft and towing restrictions on the Willamette River. The restrictions already in place on the Upper Willamette are onerous and cater to those wealthy enough to live on the water, but these proposals go even further.

We are among the 160,000+ Oregon families that enjoy recreational boating and we have a boat of our own. We are careful of no wake zones, kayakers, paddle boarders, swimmers, and fellow boaters, whether they're towing a surfer or skier or not. And in all honesty, it is singularly the *only* thing we felt we could do safely during this pandemic! The vast majority of people on the river are polite and courteous and follow current regulations.

Boating is good business – for marinas, retailers – hundreds of local companies that benefit from water sports.

I am all for education and boating licenses so people understand the rules just like driving a car. But boating and shared use of our waterways should not be dictated by special interest groups or whomever lobbied the OSMB for these changes.

Thank you for your consideration in this regard.

Sincerely,

Stacy James
Oregon City