

To the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

My name is Jonathan Ross. I'm writing this testimony in opposition to HB 2555 and HB 2725. I am an employee for Active Water Sports in Oregon City, OR. We sell and service specialized water sports boats. I recently made the move back to my home state of Oregon after living in California for the last three years and working in the marine industry. I was given the opportunity to work for Active Water Sports and to bring my passion for the marine industry and sports like wakeboarding back to Oregon. The community of water sports enthusiasts here in Oregon is very tight and, in my opinion, a very respectful group of people.

The bills that are being voted on will deeply impact the company I work for and the people we serve. Our business sells and services boats as well provides hard goods like wakeboards and skis to our customers. If these bills are passed, we will no longer be able to sell our boats to customers living on the Upper Willamette River. The boats we sell exceed the 4,000 limit that is being imposed. The customers we serve will no longer be able to use their public water ways. These customers who have bought boats to enjoy in that part of the river will lose the ability to enjoy their free time with friends and family. We all know this past year with the COVID-19 pandemic has put a huge stress on families. Boating has allowed for a great way to social distance and enjoy being closer with family. With the ban on boats over 4,000lbs we may see these families selling both their home and boat to take their business elsewhere. Local shops and marine service centers rely on the business our local boating families bring us. We will lose a huge piece of the local boating community if these bills are passed.

If the bills pass, they would be highly detrimental not only to my livelihood, but also to my whole team. I came back to Oregon for the beauty and freedom our local water ways give us. I will unfortunately be at a disadvantage not being able to market and sell these boats to my local customers. It may ultimately force me to leave this wonderful community in order to make a living. It would be extremely disappointing if it came to that. If we can work together and properly educate those on the marine board and all those who use the rivers, I feel we can co-exist and continue to enjoy our water ways in a safe and responsible way.

I urge all in favor to pause and think about what these bills will ultimately do to our local community.

I appreciate the time you have given me to write and present this testimony.

Jonathan M. Ross

Active Water Sports  
Boat Sales