

My name is Ron Garcia. I own a home on the river near mile point 33.5 which is north of Hebb Park and at the entryway for Zone 2 of Concept E that was put in place by OSMB in 2020. First I want to go on record saying that I believe this concept is a good common sense solution to the discussions being had today and I hope these rules remain permanent and that they are not changed again.

I support both HB 2555 and HB2725 to limit the maximum weight to 4,000 pounds to obtain a towed watersports motorboat certificate.

Our family is grateful for Oregon's public waterway laws that grant public access. We are blessed to live with a front row seat to the Willamette River and we love experiencing both the beauty and recreation it offers: watching the daily and seasonal changes that take place naturally - and experiencing the incredible cacophony of fun throughout the summer as boaters sail by with all variety of sports. It is really a joy to watch the daily parade!.

I can testify today that every week throughout the boating season we also witness dangerous encounters, near misses and severe boat damages that occur at our point of the river - which is at narrow passage between hidden rock outcroppings on either side and a maximum summer depth of about 14' (compared to 30 - 40 ft commonly found elsewhere). When obeying the Zones in Concept E wake-surf boarders have enough room to allow tubers and skiers and kayakers to navigate safely. When they cross that 33.2 buoy marker and continue upstream to Hebb Park it puts everyone at risk barreling through this narrow strait (including themselves! if they don't know how to navigate the shoal and end up bottoming out on the rocks).

My investment in my property brought me several years ago into a sort of sinkhole of confusing federal state and local regulations and environmental protections which prevented me from fortifying our bank in any way, including using natural barriers of fallen trees, or shoring up with soil backfill, or even using indigenious plantings that might end up too close to the shoreline - all of which would allow us protection from the onslaught of erosion that the heavy wake-surf-boarding boats indisputably create. Instead we are left helpless as our dock and riverbank take massive daily onslaughts from these waves with no defensive options allowed.

It seems ironic that the same logic creating protective regulations that are at work to maintain the splendor of the natural waterways - which affect only a very few citizens (namely us land owners) is not likewise instituted to protect the river as a whole against invasive practices leading to damaging erosion because, simply because they would negatively affect another elite group of citizens (namely wake-surf boat owners).

I urge you to maintain the Concept E that was put in place last year as a fair, safe and protective compromise that would allow all Oregonians to both enjoy the Newberg Pool for its beauty and fun, and help to protect it for years to come.

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