

Dear Representatives,

I am writing you to provide support for HB 2555. At this point in time, boats designed to generate artificial waves are causing a lot of problems on the Willamette River, and beyond.

These craft create significant damage to private property, which is well-documented. They also impact every other user of our flat water rivers, making them very turbulent waterways that negatively impact recreation. Further, the artificial waves damage the ecology of our river's as they hammer the nearshore area, causing harm to the aquatic ecosystem, and impacting wild fish, freshwater mussels, macro invertebrates and more.

As a paddle boarder, there have been several times when myself and my friend have been knocked off of our boards from high wakes caused by wake boats speeding dangerously close to us with wake boarders and tube riders being pulled. I no longer feel safe paddling on the Willamette River, and have had to seek out other areas. There appears to be lawlessness by speed boat drivers who drive recklessly close to paddlers endangering our safety.

The Oregon State Marine Board has failed to adequately represent Oregonians, and this must change. I encourage you to support SB 2555. We need to limit the impact of wake boats, and make the OSMB more accountable. In a time where the National Wake Surfing industry is spending big money in Salem, I encourage you to do the right thing for our waterways, and for the people of Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Fern Dayton, MS
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