



Jessica VanderMeer <jessmheath@gmail.com>

Please stop legislation HB 2555, HB 2695 and HB 27344 messages

Jessica VanderMeer <jessmheath@gmail.com>

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To: rep.BradWitt@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.VikkiBreeseiverson@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.ZachHudson@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.JamiCate@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.PamMarsh@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.SusanMcClain@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.BillPost@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.JeffReardon@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.DavidBrockSmith@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.AnnaWilliams@oregonlegislature.gov
Bcc: Husband <jamesvandermeer79@gmail.com>

Dear Representatives:

I am a resident in Lake Oswego on Fielding Rd with a waterfront home on the Willamette. My husband and I purchased our dream home two years ago solely because of the waterfront access that it gave us to enjoy the water with our children. 4 months ago we purchased our first boat knowing that we could launch it from our own dock, in our backyard and waterski with our children 200 feet from our home - what a gift!

The ability to walk out our door, step onto our boat, and enjoy our backyard was the number one reason for our purchase. Now, without our say, that dream has been taken away from us, before we've even had the opportunity to use it. In what world is a law such as this passed, without giving the public the opportunity to vote and/or have a say? The residents in this stretch of the river (elk cove to willamette falls) live here because of the access that it gives us to the water. Now, you're forcing hundreds of boaters to use a very small stretch of the willamette which puts all of us at risk due to overcrowded water. I will no longer feel safe having my small children tube in such a populated area - where as before, the waterway in front of our home was mostly used by the residents in this stretch.

We've now had two summers to witness first hand what the boating season looks like in this stretch of the willamette (elk cove to the falls) and I can say, without a doubt that it has been safe, virtually wake free zone and an utter joy to witness so many families in this area be able to take advantage of the nature that surrounds us. Now it has been taken away in a completely disgraceful manner.

I urge you to oppose HB 2555, HB 2695 and HB 2734. The bills are unnecessary and are designed by special interest groups to overregulate Oregon waterways. They are bad public policy and will further impact Oregon families and small businesses.

The 4,000-pound weight limit in HB 2555 is not a restriction—it's practically an outright ban on towing that kicks off more than two-thirds of the families who recreate here, preventing parents from pulling their kids on a tube behind an affordable, multi-purpose boat.

According to safety officials, HB 2555 will make our waterways less safe and more crowded by pushing more than 250 boats on to other lakes and rivers throughout Oregon.

HB 2555 and 2734 will decimate small businesses that depend on the river. Recreational boating brings \$1.6 billion in annual economic impact to Oregon. It supports almost 6,000 jobs and more than 400 businesses, including marinas, gas stations, mechanics, restaurants, dealers and more. This year, we need to be squarely focused on bolstering small business recovery and fueling our local economy.

This legislation is born out of special interest agendas and is not representative of the community at large. These policy agendas are put forth by groups whose ultimate goal is to diminish motorized boating across Oregon. Our waterway policies should not favor select waterfront homeowners and paddlers looking to eliminate motorized boating for their own personal gain.

Finally, the proposed expansion of the Marine Board called for in HB 2695 is purposely designed by special interest groups to serve their agenda. It is a deliberate attempt to politicize the Marine Board and pave the way for even more drastic regulations that don't benefit the broader boating community.

I hope you will consider the impact of these unnecessary proposals and vote against these bills progressing through the legislature this session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,