

Chair Witt, & members of the committee,

My Name is Ryan Lancaster, Operations Manager and part owner of Y Marina, Inc. in Coos Bay, Oregon. While I do not personally live near the affected areas of House Bill 2725 and House Bill 2555, I am in opposition.

During the pandemic, boating has become one of the few socially distant, equitable outdoor opportunities for Oregonians. Many Oregon families have put thousands if not hundreds of thousands of dollars into boating to give their families reprieve from COVID-19 restrictions. These dollars directly benefit small, family businesses all over the state of Oregon, providing our employees with full time work and a steady livable wages for their families during these tumultuous times.

This bill would further limit boater to recreational waters on the Willamette River to an unachievable weight limit of only 4000 pounds. Even the most basic ski boat in the 20ft class will easily exceed this weight limit. Forcing these boaters off this designated area will inevitably cause other local waterways to become overcrowded, and potentially dangerous for other Oregon boaters.

The boating industry has faced pressures and regulations from sport fishing to recreational water sports that have cause many to leave boating all together. Our hope is to keep boating accessible, and enjoyable for all. Further restrictions brought forth by bills like HB2725 and HB2555 will only further discourage Oregonians from boating will be a baseline for future legislature that will further restrict boating and recreational water sports in our great state.

I encourage you to think about those Oregon families that will be affected by this legislation. Not only the boaters on the Willamette River, but the businesses that serve these families.

Thank you very much for your time.

Ryan Lancaster  
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