

Good morning, Representative Clem and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. My name is Mark Sauer, I live in West Linn, and I am the President of the Portland Water Spectacular, a non-profit waterski show team, we are the last and only performing show team in the Pacific Northwest.

I support House Bill 2725 4,000 lbs limit on boats in the Newberg Pool.

Our team practices and performs shows on the Willamette River between the Oregon City Falls and the Bernert Landing and have been here for over 30 years.

The amendment to HB2725 include Willamette Falls to the mouth of the Yamhill River (Miles 26.6 to 55) protects the areas of the river that have seen significant damage resulting from wake surf sports. Wake surf boats' concentrated presence on the river from Willamette falls (26.6) to the West Linn narrows (mile 30) makes it very congested with mostly wake surfing boats, which are incompatible with most other forms of water recreation, including skiing, kayaking, and paddle boarding. The wake from wake surfing boats presents significant safety risks for a show team since we build pyramids 3 and 4 tiers high, and other performance routines where we are connected to tow ropes.

Wake from wake surfing boats causes expensive damage to our floating docks, as operators do not respect distance requirements on the water. The waterway has become increasingly congested since restrictions on the Willamette block off other parts of the river, and shore erosion had increased substantially in recent years due to the increased concentration of wake surfing boats.

I urge you to vote for HB2725 as amended to create a more environmentally friendly water resource and promote improved safety for water recreation.

*Mark F. Sauer
President, Portland Water Spectacular*