

I would like for my voice to be counted as one who stands in opposition of HB 2555. Towed water sports and boating became a part of our summer tradition last year. As a child, I grew up boating with my family and I knew it would be fun to boat with my kids. Until last year however, I didn't truly understand the power of boating and towed water sports to bring the family together. I spent countless hours of uninterrupted time connecting with my kids last summer and it was awesome!

I understand that it is difficult to balance the needs of various stakeholder groups. As a boater I try my best to be courteous on the water ways to paddlers, SUPs and Fishermen. As I understand the language in HB 2555 however, me and my kids would lose our ability to make those memories and connect on the upper Willamette. That doesn't feel like an approach that is valuing our voice as stakeholders. I'm not by the way, opposed to the tow sports education and decal requirements. My specific concern is regarding the weight limit of 4000lbs GDW. Even though the call is to study the impacts and potentially increase the weight, I am skeptical about the intentions and therefore, I oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.