

Chair Witt and members of the committee; My name is Heather Burch from Portland and I'm here to testify In opposition to HB 2555/ HB 2725 and HB 2734. I'll make this very brief as I know you have a lot to read through. My family has been enjoying boating on the Willamette for over 3 years now. With summer being our favorite time of year, we look forward to our time on the Willamette. As frontline workers, dealing with the stress of the pandemic, we especially needed the time we spent wake surfing last summer as boating is a safe and socially distant outdoor activity. Additionally, with the pandemic ever present, we've been looking forward to this upcoming summer. Banning wake boats from the upper Willamette will only add to safety issues as it adds to the congestion to areas where we are permitted. Only allowing boats to tow in 2 areas where there aren't homes or docks contributes to this congestion. The vast majority of boaters are safe and responsible. Perhaps increased education and enforcement of the existing rules is a better option. Thank you for taking the time to hear my story.