

I support HB 2555 and am hopeful that the legislature will take a leadership role in resolving this issue which has escalated since the inception of wake boats 15 years ago.

Most opponents of the bill are focusing on their "rights" and "privileges" not being intruded upon by "wealthy" landowners and are framing this as a wealthy vs. common man's rights issue. I would point out that owners of these boats are likely wealthier than many of the landowners because they spent disposable income on a luxury boat which retails for anywhere between \$125,000 to \$325,000. Not may main point, but . . .

My primary reasons for supporting this bill are as follows: the purpose of this bill is to balance ALL of the interests involved which include -- public interest in preserving the health of the willamette greenway and the river ecology, balancing safety of various users along the river including paddlers, kayakers, fishermen, swimmers, etc, protecting fish and wildlife habitat, protecting property owners from property damage caused directly by these boats, etc. The opponents of this bill are quick to say that we need to "take our time," review the science, or the science shows NO indication of wake induced damage and other arguments that deflect an open and honest fact based conversation. This conflict has been going on for 15 years now. It is only escalating in its intensity and not just here along the upper Willamette River. It is a nation-wide problem that is not made up or fabricated by "wealthy"landowners along the upper Willamette River. There is real harm, real safety concerns, real damage to natural ecology along shorelines that is directly attributed to these large wake vessels and we have an opportunity to address it here in Oregon right now--to take a leadership role nationally in addressing this issue.

The opponents to this bill do seem to not want to discuss data or actual impact to others. They do not care about facts--rather they are focused on preserving their "right" to use the waterway in an unrestricted fashion and without regard to the harmful impacts on others. Proponents of this bill have assembled scientific data on wake energy and damage, countless pictures of actual wake induced bank erosion and environmental impact data because they have had to in order to bring this conversation to where it is. But opponents do not want to evaluate this data and call it "biased" or false simply because it is contrary to their position. The reality is that ALL public transit ways are restricted in some sensible fashion and we have precedent for restricting traffic that may damage property or create safety concerns. For example, if I were to purchase a Ferrari or Lamborghini is it reasonable that I should be able to drive it fast on any public roads simply because I bought it--to be able to speed through my local neighborhood or drive 150 mph on the freeway? I think not. How about a monster truck? Can I not drive that through all public land because it would be unfair to restrict my enjoyment of my large vehicle? We even restrict mountain biking locations on public property because of damage that this sport causes to the surrounding environment. It is common sense that we must control activity type, speed, weight, size and type of motor vehicles for safety, environmental impact and property preservation. The opponents of this bill, however, would deny the necessity to balance these considerations as it relates to their large wakeboats in this river. They seem to be only focused on their own enjoyment.

Please pass this bill to limit the weight of the boats on the upper Willamette River as that is the primary characteristic that causes and defines the reason for this conflict. This conflict did not exist until these large wakeboats entered the river. Nobody wants to end boating in the Willamette and this legislation won't do that. It simply redirects these large boats to a safer more appropriate location.