

I'm writing in the hopes that you will take into consideration the hopes and opinions of a long time resident on the (lower)Willamette river. I, like many on the river, bought a home here to enjoy the many recreational opportunities that the river has to offer. As a family, we are on the river in many different ways, from kayaking to wakeboarding. Our son is a rower with one of the clubs on the river as well. We waterski, paddle board and simply enjoy sitting on our dock. All of these activities coexisted on the river quite well until recent years. The addition of wake surfing, not to be confused with wake boarding, in recent years has certainly added some challenges. All these activities should not be treated the same way. Water skiing or wake boarding behind a 4000lb boat is not the same as wake surfing behind a ballast filled 10000lb boat. It's very important that you show a deep understanding of the nuances involved while making these important decisions.

I understand the need to regain some semblance of order and civility to the use of our precious waterways but please don't react to the need for some common sense regulation with draconian rules that will damage property values and deprive many responsible people from enjoying the river.

Power boats and paddle boats can both use the river safely with some thoughtful planning (even wake boats!) Area's of use can be agreed upon and even better, time of use. What if paddlers have sole access from dawn to 10 or 11am. In the evenings it can be similar but allow boats that don't form large wakes.

There are probably many ways to solve the problems that have led to the issues we face, that don't include rules that alienate large groups of stake holders. Please balance your decisions and make us all proud of your thoughtful recommendations.