

Members of the committee, my name is Chrissy Caruso, I'm here to testify in opposition to House Bills 2555 and 2725.

My husband and I have owned our river front home- here in Wilsonville for 19 years. At the time of buying our property, we sunk every last dime into it, because we're huge boat enthusiasts and we have always enjoyed water sports. We raised our 2 kids here, teaching them to waterski, kayak, wake board, jet ski, paddle board and wake surf. Our family has literally grown up on this river.

We spend most days, from June through September, enjoying these activities right off our dock.

That's WHY we bought this property.
This is a way of life for many of us that live on the river.

Should these bills pass, our boat will be banned because our boat weighs more than than 4000lbs. In fact, the past 3 boats we have owned weigh more than 4000lbs.

THESE BILLS will take away my family's rights from water skiing, wake boarding and wake surfing from our dock.
THESE BILLS will - also- significantly lower the value of our riverfront property.

It's irresponsible.. that these bills are not supported by established, scientific LONG term studies of the upper Willamette proving that wake sports are linked to bank erosion.

Our property is located next to the I5 bridge where nearly all boat traffic TURNS AROUND because of the no wake zone under the bridge. We get hit with everyone's waves all day long. The bank erosion I see happens in winter by Mother Nature. We don't believe the erosion happens in the 3 summer months. We've been told by experts that there is increased, year-round erosion due mostly by development on the banks, and removing native species and invasive trees.

I believe boater and river-user education and collaboration is an important solution to everyone enjoying our river together. This kind of education will only work if EVERYONE on the river is required to participate. Not just wake-pulled drivers. Everyone.

There ARE solutions that are fair and balanced,

And banning boats is not one of them.

Thank you.