

Dear Representatives:

I urge you to oppose HB 2555.

The 4,000-pound weight limit in HB 2555 is not a restriction but an attempt to ban towed watersports for most of the people that enjoy being on the water and participating in family activities who have invested in equipment and education. The stated weight limit would ban most of the watercraft that partake in this activity. This will not only strip entertainment from local families but impact employment, taxes and local establishments that serve boaters after a long day on the water. Furthermore, the Newberg Pool is already one of the most highly regulated waterways in Oregon. Wakesurfers and wakeboarders are already limited to a 3-mile, mostly uninhabited stretch of the river. They are also subject to additional safety certifications, annual taxes and existing weight limits. According to safety officials, HB 2555 will make our waterways less safe and more crowded by pushing more than 250 boats on to other lakes and rivers throughout Oregon. This bill is a direct attack on a specific boat type and the weight limit is not based on any scientific information. There is no empirical evidence that directly links erosion on the riverbanks or damage to docks to wake boats over 4000-pounds.

I hope you will consider the impact of this unnecessary proposals and vote against this bill progressing through the legislature this session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Atkinson