

I'm 16 years old and I oppose this bill. This is the bill that is causing controversy through the families of the Willamette. Practically every wake boat owned on the river exceeds 4,000 pounds, unlike fishing boats and small ski boats which are difficult to fulfill all wake sports. Boating United states "We could be just weeks away from these unnecessary restrictions on the upper Willamette River – but you can help. Whether you like to wake board, tube, water ski, or wakesurf, you will be impacted by these laws if we don't come together and use our voices to advocate for our community. Even if you don't boat on the Willamette, your favorite river or lake could be next". This bill can affect many people not by just emotionally but financially. If this bill goes through, this will lower the value of homes on the river and the value of money spent on boats by the homeowners. We need to hear more people's voices to stop the act of this bill. If this bill is enforced it can cause safety issues, causing more congestion in other waterways. It also will have an impact on small businesses that support many jobs for people and will also decimate gas stations, dealers, restaurants, mechanics and more. Not only do homeowners on the Willamette work hard for what they have, they spend all year waiting for their summer of fun and to relax from all the work they have done. They are able to enjoy their boat and property. Boating is also a great way to safely distance with your family and friends during this pandemic. Josh Dougherty, a homeowner on the upper Willamette shares his opinion on the bill, "Basically, it's just that there is zero evidence that wake boats cause erosion. That's the reason the other side says we need this bill. If it passes, we can't recreate anymore on a river that's been used for 100 years by the community". This bill will hurt Wilsonville and many other communities. This bill needs more time thought on. I own a boat over 4,000 pounds, in the bill it says you are still able to cruise and go whatever speed you want in a boat over 4,000 pounds, but once you put a rope behind the back it's not okay. So for all of your guys information. I will fill my boat up with ballast and create the biggest wake possible if this bill goes through because it is completely legal. This bill isn't going to fix your erosion issue which in fact is not scientifically supported. So I will continue to create a wake that is huge...but I can't put a person on it with a rope? Doesn't make any sense. The person doesn't add any more wake to anything. This is why you need to rethink this bill. Give us our river back that we live on. The people that are in support of this bill from erosion should have known that maintenance to your house is going to happen when living on the river. Thank you.