

I understand the interest in balancing environmental responsibility, safety and financial concerns. I want to protect fish habitat, I don't want to see public and private property damaged, and I want to ensure everyone on the water is safe. Despite some people's assertions to the contrary, boating venues are limited. The Columbia River is highly populated and often too rough to boat on, let alone enjoy any kind of water sports. Other venues in the area, such as Hagg and Detroit lake have similar challenges. The Willamette River offers my family the opportunity, just 20 minutes from our home, to enjoy paddle boarding, tubing, wakeskating, and surfing for a couple of hours a couple times each week. Our boat is not large - just 22'. But, the dry weight exceeds 4000lbs without any ballast. We often enjoy activities that do not require ballast, but this bill would eliminate the ability to use our boat for any water sport activity. Common sense boating laws are fine, but this goes too far and alienates too many boaters on a public waterway.