

I strongly oppose this measure. I have lived on the Willamette river for my entire life. My parents purchased a river front home in the late 70's near Wilsonville. They have built and remodeled what is their dream home and they still live in it today. Passing this measure would devastate their life investment emotionally and financially. During my lifetime I have seen the river in many different stages. I have seen it flood in 1996 where it breached it's banks and caused massive damage to homes, properties and caused major bank erosion. I have seen the river where there was only really loud jet boats with long hair flowing in the wind with the occasional tri hull pulling a water skier. I have seen the old Bernert Family barge line cruising up and down the river dredging for gravel. The Willamette river has been my life. I caught my first fish, learned how to swim, learned how to drive a boat, and learned how to water ski. I have witnessed and had personal experience with river bank erosion. I'm not a environmentalist, but i have real life knowledge that the river bank receives its damage from the high water in winter and not from boat wakes. As for people complaining about boat wakes causing damage to docks, I can personally attest this to be false. I have built and maintained two docks at my parents house over the years. The biggest culprit for damage has been high water and large debris. This measure restricting towed water sports is the craziest thing i have heard of. My entire life we have skied, tubed, and wake boarded in our backyard. I encourage everyone to take a boat ride up the Willamette from West Linn to Newberg. Look at the homes with docks and the boat slips that are cut into them. During the summer every one of those docks will have a ski boat parked in it. Passing this measure would eliminate 99% of every riverfront home owner's reason for even living there. Its really sad to see the vocal 1% get a chance to even have this measure considered. What has happened to our government?