

My family and I have boated safely and responsibly on the upper Willamette River for the past 20 years. These bills, if passed, will take that option away from my family and thousands of other individuals who depend on this waterway for a safe, fun and healthy outdoor activity each summer in Oregon. Right now, when so many of us are looking for safe activities outside, these bills would strip safe, socially distant outdoor opportunities for all of us. These bills will only add to the safety issues on the river. Banning wake boats from the Upper Willamette not only destroys boating opportunities for Oregonians, but will add to congestion and safety issues in other bodies of water in Oregon and Washington. The vast majority of boaters like myself are safe and responsible. We should focus on increased education and enforcement of the existing rules. This section of our public river is already highly regulated to towed sports with wake surfing only allowed in two areas where there are no docks or homes. We took the course and test last year to get our towed water sports permit and we followed all of the rules last summer when we safely boated on the Upper Willamette. These bills are not based in science. There is no empirical evidence that directly links wake boats to erosion on the riverbanks or damage to docks. Please do not make another decision for this state that is not based in science and that hurts and harms many to save the interests of a few.