

We urge you to support HB 2555.

We have been working on this issue for over a decade and it needs to be resolved with bold action to reduce environmental damage to the Willamette river and its habitat in the Newberg Pool.

Back in 2008, the governor saw the problem and took action through the Marine Board. Unfortunately the law was never enforced and the wake surf community continued to build bigger and bigger boats. Boats too big for the safety or the health of this river.

Large heavy wake boats endanger children, pets, small boats, kayakers, swimmers, fishing and other users of the river. They take over when they are on the river and force others off the river through fear and intimidating behavior.

The heavy wake boats do significant environmental damage to the river, its banks and the wildlife that live there.

If we allow these large wake boats to continue, they will push all other users off the Newberg Pool and damage the river and its environ beyond repair.

The Newberg Pool is only 500 to 600 feet wide. It is a slow moving pool and the banks are silt based which can not take the pounding from these large massive boats in the summer.

The Willamette River runs through some of the most populated areas of the state with diverse recreational users and sensitive fish and wildlife habitat. These boats threaten the river, others recreating on it and the habitat supporting it.

The Upper Willamette is simple too narrow, fragile, developed and congested to balance the needs of all users without some type of wake control measures in place.

Thank you again for helping protect safety, shoreline, property within the Willamette Greenway and ensuring this treasured recreational resource will continue for a wide range of recreation uses for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Willamette Greenway Alliance