

Oregon Legislators,

I grew up in long island where water sports like waterskiing, wakeboarding and wakesurfing have nearly been litigated out of existence. One of the major drivers of this trend is folks on their yachts drinking all day who have managed to get laws passed that will not allow waterskiing, tubing etc within 400 yards of other boats, shore, or the channel. Why would these folks work so hard to pass such laws? They don't like their boats being rocked while they anchor up and drink all afternoon. Never mind the fact that their boats throw the biggest wakes on the Peconic Bay.

I tell you this because I do not want to see Oregon become the same sort of environment where select elites get to make the rules for everyone. I'd hate to see Oregon become the sort of place where families who waterski and tube and wakeboard are demonized while others can create dangerous situations like large wakes and DUI without oversight. I've seen it here on the Willamette where a cabin cruiser passed our marina causing a 2' swell. When the waves came to the docks, the owner of the sailboat in the next slip said "... another wakesurfer" which of course, it wasn't. Its moments like this where the towed watersport community has become the lightning rod for poor boating etiquette.

Another example of bad etiquette is when the Trump boat parade caused all that damage and sank that family's boat in the summer of 2020. As far as I know, there were no legal repercussions for those involved. They put countless people in real danger and swamped every marina from Sellwood to St. Johns. Where is the outrage? What's worse is that damage was their intent, not just a byproduct of their journey. In this example, it was the family that went tubing who were the victims. If you haven't seen the footage, here are a couple of links.

<https://www.oregonlive.com/portland/2020/08/boat-sinks-on-willamette-river-as-trump-boat-parade-passes-by.html>

<https://twitter.com/jimirosenkrantz/status/1295130927769640965?s=12>

My hope is that we can enforce a reasonable set of rules and regulations that help make the river a place for all to enjoy and does not exclude any one group of individuals.

-Dave Smith