

Chair Witt, members of the committee, my name is Summer Collier and I'm here to testify in opposition to HB 2555 and HB 2725. These regulations would strip safe and socially distant outdoor opportunities for hundreds of families along the Willamette River during these strange times. I grew up on the Willamette River and I would hate to have it ripped away from not only me but my friends, family and all other water loving enthusiasts out there. Banning wake boats from the Upper Willamette destroys boating opportunities and adds to congestion and safety issues in other bodies of water. Placing higher enforcement of current regulations should be the first step, rather than jumping to an all out ban on tow boats and sports. The word "ban" or "banned" leaves a really bad taste in my mouth. It's not fair. These bills will destroy small businesses that depend on the river. I work at active water sports and I love my job so much. These bills will potentially take that job away from me and others that work there. I have built a name for myself in the boating industry and I can't accept that it's trying to be taken away from me. I live minutes from the river because I spend most of my time there, not only to wakeboard, waterski and surf, but also to fish and recreate with friends. The answer to issues that are happening need to be found through equal efforts to use the river in cohesive ways not banning boating altogether. Please consider my voice and hear me and others who wish to continue to enjoy life on the water. Thank you.