

Hello,

My name is Roshan Patel and I am testifying in strong opposition to HB 2555. My family and I live in Portland, Oregon and we have enjoyed wake-boating activities on the Willamette for many years. We are people that care about conserving the natural environment and the safety of the river for all people including ski/wake, fishing, paddling, sailing, etc. It has been our experience over the years, while conflicts will invariably arise, most people in the community are open to change that balances health and safety while maintaining the diversity of recreational uses.

I do not believe effectively eliminating an entire class of boats or water sports is fair or necessary. Instead, I would like to propose looking at alternative solutions. Such as adding no-wake zones, adding law enforcement, and setting a reasonable maximum ballast weight. I believe such solutions would reduce the negative impacts of wake-boats on the Willamette. If an alternative to HB 2555 is not found and the bill was to pass, our family's wake-boat and the significant financial investment we have made would be rendered virtually worthless as the Willamette is where we do >90% of our boating.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and the concerns of so many wake-boaters on the Willamette like me who want to find solutions that maintain the integrity of the river and the diversity of the community of people and activities on the river. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there's anything I can do to help ensure voices like mine are heard.

Thank you,

Roshan Patel

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