

I have been a boater all of my life. I was taught at a very young age the rules of boating, safety protocols, and how to be a good human while on the water. My wife and I recently sold our older Sea Ray ski/wakeboard boat as we placed an order for a new boat late last year. Ironically, the older 2005 boat would not conform to the rules being brought forward if we still owned it. It is hardly a modern boat nor is it a boat equipped with anything fancy. Our new boat will not qualify either if the rules are passed due to its dry weight as well. Over the years, we have moored our boat off and on in the Upper Willamette at the Charbonneau boat ramp. We have always been courteous to our fellow boaters and especially to those lucky enough to have property on the water/docks. I know how far to keep from the docks while towing, I know not to do power turns, speed, right of way, etc. The upper Willamette is already the most regulated stretch of water in all of Oregon. I took the Newberg Pool test last fall to get my Towed Watersports Education Card after having my Oregon boaters card since they were first required many, many years ago. As soon as I take delivery of our new boat, we will register it and get the sticker for the Newberg Pool...again as is already required. I've played by all the rules, am an extremely safety oriented person and am teaching my children (who love the boat) to do the same. In a nutshell...we are the exact family and influence that you want on the water. But with this proposed additional total ban...you are taking us off the water - PERIOD. You have already done the right thing by segregating surfers to a specific area, by creating a separate standard of training/classes, and by the boat sticker requirement for total weight. This is a good way to handle the many needs for different uses in an urban waterway.

Instead of making yet another rule, ordinance, law, or proclamation, I plead with you to keep it exactly as it is and actually police it. Those who are bad actors in every facet will continue to do so whether or not this is in place while families and friends like mine...will never be on that section of the river again if this is passed...and that makes me sick frankly. Further, it will drive hundreds of boats to the lower Willamette creating dangerous hazards where people are sure to be hurt.

Do the right thing and don't overreach further with a new law over something that is already on the books. Police what you already have and stay the course.

Boating is a family activity, please allow my family to continue to enjoy it together. - Geoff Sinclair