

I support this bill.

We live a block from the Willamette river, where we take out our kayaks, ski boat and pontoon boat. I grew up wake boarding before wake enhancing boats were around. I spent countless summers as a white water rafting guide and winters surfing in the ocean.

I have tried boat towed surfing.... I can tell u it is a sport (if u can call it a sport) for old fat guys that can't handle the real waves nature makes or are too lazy to water ski. I watch the erosion these large boats cause, eat away our shore line daily. For what ? So one person can look cool for his buddies on Instagram ?

There is no need to create large artificial waves to enjoy the water. I can wake board behind a small boat that doesn't cause irreversible damage just fine.

Not only do these artificial waves cause shore erosion, they are unsafe for other boaters as well as paddlers.

I went into pre term labor last summer after our ski boat slammed into a large wake. Spent last month of my pregnancy on bed rest after that. After I safely had my baby we bought a pontoon boat, assuming that would handle going over these large wakes better than our ski boat. While out w our kids and friends kids we got hit by yet another wave that swamped our entire 24 foot long boat. Luckily my husband responded quickly and was able to keep us from sinking with five kids under the age old four on board.

How can I teach my children to ski, tube, kayak if the water is so rough on our river ? Remember there is a large dam that has turned upper Willamette into essential a closed circuit /pool. Then you crowded it with upwards of 30 to 40 large boats throwing 4+ waves. At least the ocean waves come in sets which are parallel to the beach. The boat drivers are less predictable and are erratic.

The safety hazards these large boats cause makes our river unsafe. And prevents us from enjoying the river we love so much.