

This bill is identical to HB 2725, introduced by Representative Witt. This bill was already extensively debated and did not move forward. Oregon needs our senators focused on COVID, economic recovery and getting our kids back in school. It will strip safe, socially distant outdoor opportunities for hundreds of families along the Willamette and impact local small businesses.

This bill is not based on science – Local government agencies, hydrologists, geotechnical and civil engineers, ecologists and arborists all agree the lack of native vegetation and mismanagement of native trees is causing the majority of the erosion on the river, not towed water sports.

The Newberg Pool is already one of the most regulated bodies of water in Oregon, and wake surfing is only allowed in two small zones with no adjacent homes.

This bill not only exacerbates safety issues, but it also fails to solve a primary issue – enforcement. The state has already struggled to enforce the laws and rules we have, and the bills do not address how to deal with the worst offenders who make the river dangerous for everybody.