

First of all thank you for all you do. Our state has been a leader in best practices and vision to protect the environment, our ecosystems, and our commitment to make Oregon the most beautiful state in the country.

We have worked hard to bring the issues of protecting our beloved river and the preservation of fragile habitats of our fish and wildlife.

You'll read that the opposition thinks that we are trying to ban outdoor boating and recreation when the opposite of that is true. We are water skiers towed behind boats, paddle boarders, rowers, canoers, kayakers, and swimmers, and avid supporters of safe watersports for all. Most cannot continue to do these recreational activities while the river is churning and large boats and waves crash around us.

The lower Willamette has banned these wakeboard monster boats, and now those boats seek approval and are headed for the more narrow, sandy banked upper Willamette. We know that many have experienced slides and erosion of not only private lands but public lands as well (see Champoeg Park, our state park's damage). For many of my neighbors who have put out "no wake" signs, they've been pelted with garbage, and jeered at while the wakeboaters come as close as they can to increase the damage. We have again replaced torn hoses that have been severed from our boatlift. These are not ways to solve issues.

We've provided scientific studies and videos to support. Most of us are not a few rich landowners but we ARE concerned citizens.

Please protect the Willamette River and preserve it for all to enjoy. We highly support this bill and urge all of you to do the right thing and support it as well.

Respectfully,  
Susan and Michael Crow