

Concerning SB 602

The Oregon Senate has a chance to keep Waldo Lake access open for all users. By adopting one or more of the proposed amendments, we can all have a chance to experience the lake with proper and prudent precautions provided by modern four stroke motors. These amendments vary: However each and every amendment offers a reasonable compromise that will allow EVERYONE reasonable access to enjoy boating on Waldo Lake.

My Uncle Gordon DeHarpport, who was paralyzed in Vietnam also was able to enjoy quietly cruising Waldo Lake and fishing in his pontoon boat prior to the motor boat ban and his death. My step-daughter Jessica, who was born with Downs Syndrome liked nothing in the world more than a day of quiet boating, slowly exploring at Waldo Lake in my 4 stroke powered 18 foot boat. We never bothered a soul. In fact, canoe and kayakers would all be so helpful and kind with helping us dock or beach and help Jessica safely exit the boat. Neither my Uncle nor my step-daughter was able to safely operate or safely and comfortably sit in a paddle boat or row boat for any length of time.

My good friend Don LaDuke of Oakridge served his country proudly at the battle of Luzon, in the Philippines in WWII. He also enjoyed motor boating and fishing at Waldo as a young man prior to WWII until the motor ban made that cherished recreation no longer practical. Don is now 87, he still launches and loads his own four stroke powered boat. Sadly, he can no longer do so at Waldo. Rowing or paddling is out of the realm of common sense for a man of 87 on such a big and often dangerously windy lake.

These men and millions more did not serve their country in order to watch a majority trample the rights of a well behaved and respectful minority group of outdoor loving people be DENIED the right to respectfully enjoy the simple pleasure of motor boating. Allowing modern, clean, quiet EPA approved motors assures a reasonable compromise and proper environmental protection for the lake that we all love.

I believe that the Oregon State Marine Board has erroneously regulated Waldo Lake boater's access when there is and never has been any empirical evidence citing a pollution issue, a safety issue or a user group conflict issue. Despite at least 70 years of 2-stroke motors operating on the lake. Science, facts, reasonable access and common sense should drive this policy.

A well organized and well funded majority should not be allowed trample a small minority of their rights to equally and respectfully enjoy this wonderful outdoor resource. Specifically in this case: where there is a common sense solution and modern 4 stroke technology that can be applied in order to further protect this resource and allow equal access for everyone. Please amend SB 602 so we can all continue enjoy and protect Waldo Lake. Thank you.

Robert DeHarpport President- Waldo Lake For EVERYONE!