

Submitter: Ethan Jewett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

To whom it may concern,

The Willamette River has continued to be an important education and recreation location for our Scouts, particularly during COVID; canoeing has afforded built-in social distancing and the ability to carry a tent for each Scout.

Unfortunately, there are long stretches of the river that we have learned to avoid because of the dangerous characteristics and behavior of wake boats. We support limits on these heavy/ballasted boats first and foremost as a matter of safety, secondly by virtue of the environmental/habitat damage the resulting waves produce, and lastly the simple degradation of the river experience for literally ALL other river users, powered, unpowered, and ashore.

An expensive and novel new user type should not be able to claim primacy or even equality when it brings so many negatives to the shared space of our waterways; paddlers like our Scouts have long coexisted with regular power boats, jet boats, and even air boats on all stretches of the river, largely with courtesy and cooperation instead of conflict. Please support these limits and return this State treasure into a welcoming place from headwaters to the Columbia.

Ethan Jewett  
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