

Submitter: Gary GRIEVE

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

Subject Line; Support SB1589

I am a resident of more than 20 years at 12130 SW Riverview Lane in Wilsonville, OR which is located about 1.8 miles upstream of the I-5 bridge. My property is on the waterfront with a permitted dock.

I am writing you seeking support for SB1589 and asking you to pass this reasonable legislation to reduce the damage that large wake surfing boats are doing to the environment.

The size and frequency of large wakes produced by heavy watercraft on the river are doing irreparable damage to the Willamette River and its environs.

Operators of wake surfing and wake boarding boats frequently do not observe the current rules which is also resulting in unsafe conditions for my family and others to enjoy the river and our property.

I am deeply concerned about the safety of those enjoying the river. This damaging behavior is endangering children, pets, small boats, kayakers, swimmers, fishing and other users of the river.

Additionally, I worry about the environmental damage it is doing to the river and its banks and the wildlife that depend on it. I believe the environmental viability of the Willamette River is threatened especially in the narrow section of the Newberg Pool which is only 500 feet wide in most areas.

The recent scientific study by the University of Minnesota that confirms what we all knew -- wakeboats and wakesurfing create waves that put all other boaters and river users at risk. It found:

- “When researchers compared the wake waves of the four boats during their most typical mode of operations, the data indicated that wakesurf boats require distances greater than 500 feet from the shoreline/docks and other boats (or the distance of a little less than 1.5 football fields) to decrease their wake wave characteristics to levels similar to the non-wakesurf boats.”

Please support SB1589. This bill will go a long way to helping improve all recreation in the Newberg Pool and reduce environmental damage to the river and its habitat. This bill is NOT about banning boats. I have a boat and it is an appropriate weight and hull design for this environmentally sensitive section of the river. The wake sports community is calling this a ban. Shame on them. They are just mad and promoting falsehoods about the number of boats that this would affect. They will still be able to recreate on and in the river. Just not doing things that damage it.

I support recreational uses of the river provided that those activities don't endanger others or harm the river. The Upper Willamette is simple too narrow, fragile,

developed and congested to balance the needs of all users without some type of wake control measures in place.

I urge you to support this bill and do the right thing for Oregon and the Willamette River. Doing so will help protect safety, shoreline, property within the Willamette Greenway and ensure this treasured recreational resource will continue for a wide range of recreation uses for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Grieve