

Submitter: Ginny Obermeyer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

Please support Senate Bill 1589 to limit the weight of boats engaging in towed waterports.

I am 80 years old and have been a boater all my life. Believe it or not, I still waterski on the the Willamette river.

I have been boating on the upper Willamette for decades, but only in the last decade, when wakeboats have been introduced on the waterways, have I observed the bank slides and erosion, the murky waters, and the other boats being swamped by big waves. It is a clear "cause and effect" in my observation.,

I have read some of the other testimony and will comment on one thoughtful testimony that was in opposition to this bill.

The testifier states "I don't think anyone will argue that bigger waves have the ability to contribute to erosion". So, bigger waves causing more erosion is obvious.

However, the testifier is concerned that the Bill will ban big boats altogether and that other measures should be considered to preserve the bank.

First, this Bill doesn't ban any boats. It narrowly bans towed activities for boats over 5000lbs.

Second, the "other measures" the testifier suggests include: putting in soil erosion mats, anchoring dead trees along the bank, fill metal cages with rocks or concrete and put them along the bank. These measures would probably work, but they are not allowed by law and would be extremely expensive and completely disrupt the natural habitat.

The bill does allow for continued study and a change in the prescribed weight limit of 5000lbs. But, in the meantime, the obvious damage that I, and many others who have spent time on river for decades, needs to be halted. This Bill is a perfectly logical way to do that.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Ginny