

February 5, 2022

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Re: Support for SB 1589

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to show my support for Oregon Senate Bill 1589, to set a limit on the maximum weight of a towed watersports motorboat in the Willamette River.

While it is certain that some individuals truly enjoy wake surfing and other towed sport, the proliferation of massive, wave-producing boats in excess of 5000 lbs displacement has created new problems for the river-loving community.

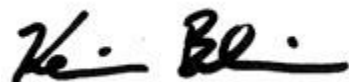
Wake board displacement hulls are designed to be disruptive. A typical speedboat has a displacement around 2000 lbs and a planing hull that does not normally generate excessive waves. Most wave-generating wake boats feature displacements of 3000-4000 lbs. SB 1589 therefore only focuses on the largest and most problematic boats on the river. This is a very small segment of the boating public.

These enormous powerboats are purpose-built to create shore-destroying artificial waves, excessive noise, and confused waters. They promote watersports inattention and generate river traffic congestion. The portion of the Willamette River between Willamette Falls and the Yamhill River is confined and narrow, amplifying the environmental damage from the waves and worsening river safety for other users. Such powerful boats are more appropriate for other Oregon waters, including the Columbia River, which only 30 miles away and much more spacious.

This bill will protect riparian shorelines, increase river safety, and reduce nuisance. This bill will only affect the largest boats and will be a minimal inconvenience to routine powered watersports enthusiasts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Blaine". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kevin Blaine