

Submitter: Margaret B McRoberts

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

I am writing in support of SB 1589, because it will help ensure the safety and well-being of all boaters and those recreating on the Willamette River and specifically in the Newberg Pool area.

A University of Minnesota study released on Feb. 1, 2022, recommends that wake boats conducting towed water sports be greater than 500 feet from the shoreline or any structures such as docks or other boats. Most stretches of the Newberg Pool in the Willamette River do not provide that much width. This study clarifies that Wake Boats are not like any other similarly sized craft, and that they produce waves with larger size and energy, which makes them detrimental to river habitat, other river users, and private property. SB1589 will reset the weight limit to something closer to what boats weighed when the problems began in the early 2000s.

Please support this legislation. Thank you.

Margaret B. McRoberts
Citizen