

Submitter: Bob Berkholtz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

Committee Members,

I strongly support SB1589 and just wanted to comment on the letter from the Oregon State Marine Board.

The OSMB letter suggested that owners of older model boats may have a hard time reporting the weight of their boats.

Actually, it's very easy. The website: nadaguides.com lists the weights of boats by year and model going back decades.

And in all truth, there really aren't any late model boats that weigh over 5000lbs that would participate in towed water sports.

Another fact pointed out by the OSMB: that of the 500 or so boats that have been certified for watersports in the Newberg Pool, the average weight is right around 5000lbs. Opponents of this Bill make it sound like all these boats will get kicked off the river.

Remember these are only the boats that have applied for towed watersports certificates, there are THOUSANDS of other boats using the river too, that are getting pushed off the river by the bigger boats.

In reality, only those that weigh ABOVE the average if the already heavy boats will be limited (but not eliminated, remember they can still go boating, but not tow). So, at most, only half of the heaviest boats will be affected, and only the heaviest that are causing the most damage will be limited to non-towing activities.

Also, the OSMB letter did not mention how they chose 10,000lbs as the current limit. In their board meeting when the weight was chosen, it was based on the maximum capacity of the boat ramps, nothing to do with the wake issue, or their mandate to consider the greenway.

Please support SB1589, now is the time to set limits on the use of the Newberg Pool, before it is too late.

Bob Berkholtz