

February 7, 2022

RE: Opposition to **SB 1589**

My name is Cory Kinnaman and my family, and I live on the Upper Willamette in Wilsonville, OR. We have used this waterway since the early 70's as a family both growing up here as children and now with our own children. Year after year we write these letters in opposition to a new bill introduced each year. The individuals and groups funding these bills are looking to exclude an entire boating community who not only look forward to the summers with family and friends on their boats, but also help stimulate the local economies through these months. The excuse these lobbyists stand behind is erosion and damage to the ecosystem and lifecycles of the river. I have lived on this river for many years and the damage from erosion is not wake board related. The banks are eroded each year by an increase in current and a rise in the overall water levels during the winter months. I live on the river with access on my boat ramp and boat dock and the erosion during these months is monumental. Stopping the boats will not stop erosion, it will only give a specific, small group of people who enjoy paddle sports the privatized waterway they hope for.

The people who live on the river know that this is something they need to address personally within their respective properties. This is part of buying a house on the river and mitigating any damages and erosion due to natural lifecycles of the river is and should be par for the course. The paddle community are looking to further push their personal boundaries upriver when rules have already been put in place on the lower Willamette for them to have a place to enjoy free from the boating community. The river should be all inclusive and if anything should be better policed to ensure that the responsibilities of the boating community are being enforced. Boaters are all licensed through extensive testing procedures that allow them to operate in and around all river sports including paddling activities.

Excluding boats over 5K pounds takes many of these boats off the river that everyone should be able to enjoy only to make a small group happy. How to better service this area and make sure that all parties using these rivers not only pay fees for access through proper permits for equipment and take the proper training to know how to navigate this waterway with all parties should be the focus of this group moving forward.

Sincerely,

Cory Kinnaman