

Submitter: Arthur Thogerson  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Families for Boating  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure: SB1589

As a member of the Oregon Families for Boating, a boat owner and from a family of 3 generations that have enjoyed towed watersports in the Newberg Pool area of the Willamette River, since 1965, I am submitting this written testimony that I OPPOSE Senate Bill SB 1589. The Newberg Pool should be safely shared by a variety of boating uses. As a power boat owner, towed sports enthusiast and a kayak paddler, I feel all these activities can coexist safely.

This bill would ban wake surfing all together and arbitrarily limit other towed water sports such as tubing, waterskiing and wakeboarding to boats under 5,000 pounds. As a 66 year old grandfather, I grew up waterskiing every summer weekend at the Newberg Pool area, then took my kids waterskiing and wake boarding every summer weekend on the exact same stretch of water and expect to continue with my grandchildren, and family bonding that this special time on the water promotes.

From a factual standpoint, as a home builder, it is residential developement with lack of native vegetation, not boat wakes which is the primary human caused erosion along our river banks. In addition natural occurrences such as storms and flooding have the greatest impact on erosion. There is no evidence or studies that link the proposed restrictions to have any positive effect on fish population. The Newberg Pool is already the most regulated body of water in Oregon but the problem is failure to enforce the rules already in effect. The state should address enforcement for saftey, not impose additional restrictions. The arbitrary weight limit of 5,000 pounds for towed sports boats in this bill does not make sense when a heavy boat used for fishing or a large cruiser can throw an even bigger wake than a boat designed for watersports. Lastly SB 1589, if passed, would eliminate a safe, socially distant outdoor family activity that enhances the love of the outdoors and the family bonds that boating promotes. Please vote no on SB 1589.