

Submitter: Grant Traver

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

I have been boating on the Willamette for over 20 years, this is not just something I do occasionally, boating and watersports is a lifestyle for many of us and is one of the main reasons I have never moved away from this area! Over the last few years, we have seen our ability to be able to use this public waterway limited as more stretches are taken away from us and are now at the brink of not being able to use our boats on this stretch of the river. Towed watersports such as wakesurfing is unfairly being singled out and banning these boats will not do anything to fix the issues that are given as the reasons for banning them. Below are a few bullet points of reasons why I oppose SB 1589.

- SB 1589 will strip safe, socially distant outdoor opportunities for hundreds of families along the Newberg Pool and impact local small businesses who depend on their support.

- Residential development, not boat wakes, is the primary human-caused source of erosion. There is broad agreement that the lack of native vegetation and homeowner mismanagement of native trees has caused the majority of erosion. Furthermore, natural occurrences such as last winter's storm have a greater impact on river health than boating.

- There is no empirical evidence or peer-reviewed study that links the proposed restrictions to having any positive effect on fish populations. Wake sports largely take place in the summer, outside of key migratory or spawning months. Studies show that wake boats waves, when operated at least 200 feet from shore, do not carry enough energy to have a significant impact on most shorelines.

- The Newberg Pool is already one of the most regulated bodies of water in Oregon. Wake surfers are subject to a weight limit, required to obtain a special safety certification and only allowed in two small zones with no adjacent homes or docks.

- This bill not only exacerbates safety issues, but it also fails to solve a primary issue – enforcement. The state has already struggled to enforce the extensive laws and rules we have, and the bill does not address how to deal with the worst offenders who make the river dangerous for everybody.

- Subjecting only towed water sports enthusiasts to a weight limit is overtly biased. A 5,000-pound fishing boat can produce a similar wake to the same size tow boat. Furthermore a 15,000 cabin cruiser that produces a wake far greater than any wake

surfing boat can still operate freely under this legislation.