

Submitter: Jeffrey Sher
On Behalf Of: Willamette Sailing Club
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB1589

Honorable committee members,

I am writing to express my support for SB 1589. I live across the street from the river in Portland. I also happened to be a member of the Willamette sailing club. I am an active kayaker and paddle boarder. I have witnessed the negative impact of these large wake boats. On one occasion one of these boats came very close to me and the wake knocked me off my board. The size of these waves that these boats create are not consistent with what the Willamette river can support. The impact on the shoreline and on houseboats and other infrastructure is negative. I am concerned about erosion of the shoreline. At the Willamette sailing club there often are children in the summer taking classes. When these heavy boats go through it is very disruptive and potentially dangerous. There are also negative ecological effects on wildlife. I think it is time to take action and not allow these heavy boats to impact the river. There are other places that are more conducive to this kind of activity, for example the Columbia. Thank you for taking my testimony! Dr. Jeffrey Sher