

Submitter: Chantel Herbert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns about Senate Bill 1589. My name is Chantel Herbert and I strongly oppose this bill.

I have been a boater and waterskier my entire life and am now happily working in the boating industry. It is a huge pleasure to be able to help families find a boat that fits their needs and gives them a way to make amazing memories that will last a lifetime. I love being able to share my passion and bring more people into the boating lifestyle.

A 5,000lb loaded weight limit for tow boats on the Upper Willamette would take away the right of so many boaters to use a HUGE stretch of the river doing the sports that their families have come to love. There are very few boats that would meet this requirement, including smaller waterski boats. There is no apparent reason for this specific weight limit – it seems to have been made based off of the Lake Oswego limits and called a compromise, but this is not that. It would be very hard to find a tow boat with a LOADED weight of 5,000lbs.

This bill would take away what is already a very small portion of the river for towed sports with no basis in fact or reason for doing so. There is a 6-minute video (link is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1-xM1Mm73c>) that shows exactly the stretch of river in question. If you haven't yet, I encourage you to watch the video before voting on this matter so you can see firsthand the area in question (notice the very low boat traffic in this area...). Towed water sports have already been confined to such small zones and it makes no sense to restrict it further, especially if you are concerned about "the preservation of the public peace, health and safety" as stated in the bill. Further restrictions to towed water sports will force boaters into smaller and smaller areas, making it MUCH LESS SAFE for all boaters.

This bill says that AFTER the passage, "the State Marine Board may conduct a study on increasing or decreasing the maximum loading weight", but it offers no funds or timelines to do so. It is incredibly irresponsible to take something away from so many people without having completed said study ahead of the passage of any laws.

The 5,000lb loaded weight limit and restriction of wake surfing should not pass. Thank you again for your time.