

Submitter: Rebecca Steffoff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

I'm a frequent recreational user of the Willamette River. I kayak on many sections of the river and often take out friends in my spare boats, to introduce them to both kayaking and the beautiful Willamette. I have many times experienced and witnessed the alarming effects of wake boats towing people, or speeding in general. On a few occasions I have been deliberately and repeatedly harassed by wake boaters, for no provocation other than, presumably, the effrontery of being in a human-powered vessel. I have also seen how such actions can discourage people from participating in kayaking, swimming, and other low-impact river activities.

Beyond the human element, wakes are disruptive to the river habitat and destructive to its borders.

I urge the legislature to limit the weight of boats that can be used for towed watersports.

Thank you for your attention.