

SUPPORT SB1589

I am a long time water sports enthusiast and my wife and I have been blessed with lakeside property at Loon Lake. When we go on vacation it is usually working on the property, though we do go for a morning ski and enjoy pulling the grandkids around the lake. Our lake was once peaceful and calm, with families enjoying the water. Boaters were respectful and safe. With wake boarding and surfing increasing in popularity, this is no longer the case. There is destruction, chaos and the complete disregard for others is making boating dangerous. Below are just a few instances representative of what we deal with all summer long.

When we purchased the land, wake boards and surfing wasn't even a thought here. Over the years that has changed pretty drastically. I have never been one to tie our boat up to the dock so I anchor it away from the dock. I used a metal fence post pounded in the ground about 8 to 10 feet behind the water line about 40 years ago. Fifteen years ago the shoreline began to erode at a rapid rate and the post fell into the lake. We, along with most our neighbors, brought in many tons of riprap and thrown seed out to try to prevent shoreline loss. Several have put a cement footings with cement blocks on top of them to help stop the erosion. Last year, the waves washed out underneath the footing so much you could put your arm under it in spots at one property.

For as long as I can remember, there had been a rock that looks like a face near the waters edge by the BLM campground. This rock must have weighed many hundred pounds as all 4 of my grandchildren liked to sit on it to document the summer with pictures. Just after the July 4th weekend in 2020, it was washed into the lake. The only boats on the water were two surf boats. The drivers had been being respectful, and we were grateful, but even when staying out in the middle, the wakes are still very powerful when they reach the shoreline. The grandkids, and I'm sure, along with many other children, were devastated. Loon Lake Louie was gone. If the power of those waves can do that to a several-hundred pound rock what are they do the shoreline and our docks, boats, boat lifts, etc? The brochure from the people fighting this bill said that the land owners are being irresponsible by removing the natural trees & plants that are on the shoreline, I can't speak for everyone on every lake, but at our lake, we have done the opposite, and still lost over 10' of shoreline, and it continues to increase every year that these boats are allowed on the lake.

Recently, I sold my boat because we couldn't even go out when Wakeboard and Surf Boats were on water. Not only was the boat (and us) getting slammed around, but the wakes came over the front, sides and back of the boat on many occasions. One weekend it was so bad the waves snapped the bow eye on the boat while anchored.

A few years ago we were riding in our pontoon boat. The lake was unusually quite with only a surf boat out surfing. We were fishing next to shore and the boat came unnecessarily close to us. I was worried the waves would throw us out of our chairs if I didn't turn into the waves. The waves came over the front of the pontoon boat. My daughter was sitting on an inner tube holding her baby. The force of the wave picked them up and tossed them to the back of the boat. Our 100 pound Rottweiler was washed completely off the boat and into the lake. The boat driver was oblivious.

This past summer, we were out in our pontoon boat again putting around with one of our grandchildren. We were going 5 mph, at most, about 50' from shore. Neither of us were looking behind us, but we heard what

sounded like a boat motor really close. My wife turned around first. When she started yelling and jumping up and down, I turned to find a huge surf boat with its nose up in the air about 20' from the back of our boat. They were so close and the nose so high, we couldn't even see anyone in the boat. I turned abruptly to avoid collision. Finally, someone stuck their head up, saw us, and hollered for the driver to stop. This was the scariest incident we have had to date. The driver was too busy watching what the person in the water was doing. He must have been looking back for some time to get that close to us. We thought we were going to get ran over. Witnesses on shore feared the same while yelling and waving trying to get anyone's attention. One said she "thought [she] was going to have to go rescue [us] out of the water." Not only was the boat too close to another boat, but it was way too close to the docks and shoreline.

We realize this bill isn't state wide and only applies to part of the Willamette River, but I know what we have experienced with these boats, and can only imagine what happens on the Willamette. I hope that one day, other small bodies of water can once again be a safe and enjoyable place for families to boat. **Thank you for joining me in supporting SB 1589.**

Sincerely,

Randal & Julie Mooney