

Submitter: Colin Carmichael

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

Members of the Committee,

My name is Colin Carmichael; I am a Portland resident and an avid user of the Willamette River. I am a Third-Year Varsity rower for Rose City Rowing Club, and previously Lake Oswego Community Rowing. I am writing in support of SB 1589 and to provide a first-hand experience of the danger of wakes on our rivers.

I have previously testified before the Interim Committee on Natural Resources to explain the danger wakes cause, however, I wish to do so again to protect the river I row on. My public testimony from September 18, 2019, is available, and I urge you all to review it. Back in 2019 on the Willamette, our crews were caught up on a busy summer day on the water. Many motorized boats were out and we had done our best to steer clear from them. We had stopped on the east side of the river near Elk Island to take a break when a wake boat with filled ballasts powered up mere feet from our two 8-person shells. Our boats are made of carbon fiber; they are strong, but they are not indestructible. The wake that was thrown came at the boats from the front, which is the most dangerous by far. The wake high centered the 200-pound boat with nine rowers in it and broke the boat clean in half down the middle. We were equipped with one coach and 18 kids in the wake-filled water at this point. The boat sped off, waiving themselves of any liability whatsoever. My fellow rowers and I had to swim the 200-pound 60-foot shell(s) 20-30 feet onto a beach where we attempted to gather ourselves. Once we had gotten back to the boathouse, two hours passed by. I stayed to the very end to give my full and honest account of what happened to the Sheriff, which I still remember to this day. The damage to the "Patrick Harbison" was \$36000, and the damage to the "Dave Hayashi '89" was between \$500 and \$1000.

There is much to be learned from my experience, but most importantly is the fact that current laws are not stringent enough. This bill's amendments and provisions to the Oregon Revised Statutes are supported in peer-reviewed studies, and are critical to the preservation of the Wilamette River ecosystem. Once again, I urge you all to review my testimony and the testimony of my fellow rower William Berens and our former coach Laura McArdle.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Colin J Carmichael