

February 9, 2022

RE: S.B. 1589, Relating to motorboats and declaring an emergency

Chairman XXX and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

On behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), we appreciate the opportunity to express our opposition for S.B. 1589, relating to motorboats and declaring an emergency.

NMMA is the premier trade association for the U.S. recreational boating industry, representing nearly 1,300 recreational boat, marine engine and accessory manufacturers. NMMA members collectively manufacture more than 85 percent of the marine products sold in the U.S. and Canada. Furthermore, the recreational boating industry has a significant impact on Oregon's economy, including over \$1.6 billion in annual economic impact, supporting 419 businesses and 6,000 jobs.

The recreational boating industry has long been an active steward of the environment and understands that clean water and healthy fisheries provide a direct benefit to our growing community of boaters. We believe it is important to maintain healthy waters so that today's families and future generations can experience the joys of time spent on the water. Our industry contributes \$742M annually to water and fishery conservation through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, a user pay system created by recreational boaters and anglers in 1950 to pay for critical conservation programs and recreational boating infrastructure projects. The billions of dollars in conservation programs it funds benefit all user groups, from motorized and non-motorized boaters to anglers and other recreationalists.

Proponents of this legislation have yet to demonstrate with sound science, the need to further regulate and eliminate certain activities entirely on one of the most regulated bodies of waters in Oregon.. We encourage the Legislature to allow the strict controls recently adopted by the Oregon State Marine Board to be in effect for more than one summer before it considers if adjustments are needed. Boaters and the marine industry proactively support and distribute educational campaigns that promote courteous, safe behavior to ensure that Oregon's lakes and rivers are safe and enjoyable for all. There simply is no data to suggest this new ban is justified.

Imposing overly restrictive regulations on towed watersports, including wakesurfing, would harm local businesses, communities and Oregon residents – we encourage the Committee to vote no on this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact Chris Mitton at cmitton@nmma.org.

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