

Testimony in support of SB 1589

My name is Craig Kelley. I am a homeowner on the Willamette River near Wilsonville (River Mile 40) and have been enjoying the use of the river since the 1970's. I am strongly in support of SB 1589.

SB 1589 will improve fish habitat, improve river user safety, reduce bank erosion, and protect private property such as docks; while not having a material impact on the public's ability to recreate on the river.

Wakesurfing boats covered under SB 1589 are designed and marketed to create large wakes. A recent [Univ of MN study](#) found that wakesurfing boats put out 3 to 9 times more wave energy than non-wakesurfing boats at 100 feet and 3 times the wave energy at 500 feet. The study also found that wakesurfing boats require distances greater than 500 ft to attenuate wake wave characteristics (height, energy, and power) to levels equivalent to non-wakesurfing boats operating under typical planing conditions.

Also, the study submitted to the committee by Ecological Engineers for Oregon Recreation Board United is misleading in the presentation of the data. Slide 4 shows the instances of erosion and bank failure. There is a total of 3 miles of Wake Surfing Zone and 17 miles outside of the wake surfing zone between River mile 30-50. When analyzed on a **per mile basis** there is an average of 2.7 minor instances in wakesurfing zones vs 0.4 non (550% increase) and 0.7 major instances in wakesurfing zones vs 0.5 in non (26%) See attached table below.

Finally, I am in agreement with some of the opponents of the bill that other measures would benefit both riparian health and recreational users. Boater education, including signage on the river and at public access points, and increased enforcement of existing regulations will make the river safer for all users. Property owner technical assistance through Soil & Water Conservation Districts regarding the removal of invasive plants and the benefits of native plants for bank stability and riparian health paired are an underutilized tool.

Oregon Recreation Board United Study by Ecological Engineers					
				Instances of Erosion and Bank Failure	
	Starting River Mile	Ending River Mile	Total Miles	Minor	Major
Total study area	30	50	20	15	11
Lower Wake Surfing Zone	31.8	33.2	1.4	5	2
Upper Wake Surfing Zone	46	47.6	1.6	3	0
Total Wake Surfing Zone miles			3	8	2
Instances per mile in wakesurfing zone				2.7	0.7
Total Non Wake surfing Zone miles			17	7	9
Instances per mile outside of wakesurfing zone				0.4	0.5
Percentage increase of instances of bank failure within wake surfing zones				548%	26%