

My name is Justin Moss and I am here to speak against SB 1589. I was born and raised in the Willamette valley, graduated from Oregon State University, and am a homeowner and taxpayer in the City of Newberg. I am also an outdoor enthusiast, and have enjoyed the vast natural beauty in all regions of Oregon. Over the past two summers, I've accumulated over 120 boat engine hours on the section of the Willamette river under discussion. I participate in water skiing, slalom skiing, tubing, wakeboarding, and relaxing on the river. I represent the non-wakesurfing boater that SB 1589 will affect.

SB 1589 has two justifications: 1) Protection of personal property, 2) Environmental concern regarding erosion and water quality. I will present an argument for why each of these justifications is invalid.

The "Pro" side argues that SB 1589 will protect personal property. Under current law, wakesurfing is already prohibited on 85% of the Newberg pool, which is areas where personal property is located. Prohibiting wakesurfing on the remaining 15% will have NO effect on personal property damage. The solution to property damage in the Newberg Pool is enforcement of existing laws. Therefore this justification is invalid.

The "Pro" side also argues that SB 1589 will improve environmental concerns. Problem solving involves a 5 step process: 1) Define a problem statement, 2) Determine how to measure the problem, 3) Determine root cause, 4) Identify corrective action, 5) Verify effectiveness. A site-specific environmental impact study is needed to assess the root cause of environmental issues. These assessments are the tools the State of Oregon uses to identify root causes, recommend corrective actions and address questions such as: Will banning wakesurfing be sufficient to address these concerns? How do large vessels not participating in watersports impact the environment? How much of these issues can be attributed to natural variations in weather? SB 11589 also expands the Newberg Pool upriver by 5 miles. What purpose does expanding the Newberg pool have if we have not quantified a problem and identified corrective actions? How can this expansion be justified? The failure to identify a root cause for the environmental challenges the Willamette river faces prevents Oregon from timely solving this problem. Expansion with existing evidence is shooting from the hip at best.

In short, much of the work needed to identify the root cause and a subsequent corrective action are not completed. Without this comprehensive understanding, I fear that the problem will remain unresolved while sacrificing the freedom of our fellow Oregonians.

Enacting SB 1589 represents an abandonment of our American processes and American values. It is an abdication of the responsibilities of the Oregon State Legislature.

I challenge the men and women of the Oregon State Legislature to better serve the people of Oregon.

Thank you,