

Submitter: Brad Christiansen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

For context, we've enjoyed ALL water sports types on the Willamette since my family moved to Canby, Oregon in 1972. We had multiple neighbors with boats and my dad purchased our first outboard run-a-bout in the spring of '72.

It's 50 years later, my 50th birthday was yesterday, so suffice to say, I grew up on the river, camping, fishing, tubing, skiing, wakeboarding - basically everything that included being towed behind the boat. I've had the gift of doing the same with my family. We now have 4 kiddos between 3rd grade and 11th grade and you'll often find us on the upper Willamette a couple times a week, mornings and evenings. If my dream comes true, I'll teach my own grandchildren how to ski/surf and the joy of being on the water together.

A few years ago, a small minority, like less than 5% of the population began a movement without any factual documentation to support limiting the activities on the river. It should be and can be a river that everyone enjoys. More than 70% of the river won't allow a vessel with an engine because of the depth which by the very nature of the waterway offers endless opportunities for everyone to enjoy.

If the size/wake of the vessels caused the concerns that others mention, then explain how this has had more impact than the rising tide during the winter???

Have any legislature members spent a week or weekend on the river? Until the late evening weekdays or afternoon to evening weekends is there multiple boats on the upper Willamette.

I'm completely supportive of finding solutions when 'real' problems arise and open to a forum where people can work to identify a reasonable solution to allow EVERYONE to use the waterway, but shutting it down in its entirety is a deliberate desire to support special interests and not look at the impact on the region holistically.

Sincerely,