

Submitter: John Maher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

I live on the river in Wilsonville and will be directly impacted by this bill. One of the primary reasons we chose to live on the river was because of boating, which includes wake sports. The time my family of 5 (including many friends and relatives) have spent boating together has been invaluable time together. Especially, in the last couple of years (due to COVID), boating as a family was a safe, socially distant activity we could still do together. I also strongly support the many businesses that support the boating community which will be irreparably damaged by this bill. Lastly, I don't believe boat wakes (including those with ballast systems) are damaging the shoreline or natural environment. First off, the prime wake boating "season" is only really a couple of months (July & August), which is well outside of key migratory or spawning months of key native fish species. In addition, within this short season, the primary days of actual wake-boating are typically between Friday - Sunday of most weeks. (Again, I know, because I live on the river (since 2009) and watch the boating activity nearly every day.) I have a hard time believing, this relatively light use (~30 days in a year, or less than 10% of days), is having the negative impact this Bill suggests.

Thank you,  
John Maher