

Submitter: Monibert Gaba

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

My name is Monibert Gaba and I oppose SB1589. I was hoping to get a chance to voice my testimony by signing up to do so, but I was not called on and don't know if my request was received. I was called on last year when the same state representative brought a similar bill before the state government. Regardless, I strongly oppose SB1589 because I find it restrictive and targeting one segment of river users. My wife and I both have the Towed Water Sports education card and abide by the current rules on the upper Willamette for wakesurfing. I don't know how the waves generated by our boat travel down the Willamette to the residential areas, especially since the southern most surf zone ends where there is a bend in the Newberg Pool and waves propagate laterally from the boat, there is no way these waves travel down stream around the bend to reach the first private dock before dissipating.

I believe this is an issue of education and enforcement, not restriction. As many testified yesterday, other Oregon State agencies have not brought up any concern about poor water quality or fishery concerns, so this cannot be about those issues. I was at the river last week and the amount of debris and high turbidity of the water was not caused by boats as there were none on the river that day. There are also no peer reviewed, time intensive studies that show wave energy caused by towed water sports boats are causing the type of erosion the supporters are complaining about. As one person testified, you can go down to the Boones Ferry marina and see the amount of mud on the ramps to know that winter storms cause more erosion and soil movement than boating in the summer. Two years ago, the parking lot at Rogers Landing was covered in mud and I can submit pictures if needed to support this claim.

My family and friends very much enjoy our time on the water, especially over the last couple of years being restricted due to Covid. It's been a godsend for my kids and their friends to be able to socialize away from their electronics and enjoy a safe outdoor activity. We are conscientious stewards and users of the river abide by the current rules and respect other users being cautious around them. We even let the rules dictate our last two boat purchases to fall within the current 10,000 lb limit, even though we wanted a larger boat to accommodate our group outings. We've been in both Newberg pool surf zones when the Yamhill sheriff boats have stopped boaters breaking the rules, but there are far more instances of boaters breaking the rules than those being stopped. One possible solution is to have large signage on the docks and at the boat ramps indicating the Newberg Pool Towed Watersports education card and boat decal requirements, as well as, use and locations/markings of the surf zones so those who are visiting the area are aware of the regulations. Lastly, the 5000lb weight restriction is unrealistic as a much heavier boat that is not

towing can put out a larger wave than a 10,000 lb boat set up for surfing. This can be circumvented as a 5000lb boat (we had one) can carry up to 12-15 people and can weigh over 7,500 lbs when loaded with fuel, people and equipment.

Thanks for your time and I hope you do not pass SB1589.

Sincerely,
Monibert Gaba
Sherwood, OR