

Submitter: Darby Collins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

I previously submitted testimony on Feb. 9 in support of SB1589. My earlier testimony highlighted the recent peer-reviewed study by the University of Minnesota that found large wake boats need to be at least 500 feet from the shoreline or any structures like docks or other boats to avoid damage.

Seems pretty simple to me that these boats should not operate in the Newberg Pool which is only 500 to 600 feet wide, environmentally sensitive and home to many endangered species.

I am submitting more testimony because I am deeply concerned about the testimony and study being promoted by the wake surf community from an engineer that was hired and paid for by one of the wake boaters. That engineer went out on the river for ONE day and came up with his findings. Frankly — that is just ridiculous.

This was not a peer reviewed study. It is set up to blame the victims and support the wake industry's effort to protect boating and especially these large damaging boats.

It is the same thing that BIG tobacco and BIG sugar did to create studies and narratives that are false and misleading to kill important reforms. This is BIG boating with BIG money doing the same.

Please don't be swayed by this. Scientists and credited engineers from Oregon State University, University of Portland and the University of Minnesota as well as others from around the world have PROVEN these boats are destructive.

Follow in Gov. McCall's courageous efforts to protect the Willamette River and its Greenway and protect the sensitive Newberg Pool and the environment in the Willamette Greenway.

Please support SB1589.

Sincerely,
Darby Collins
Newberg Pool resident