

Submitter: Gary Grieve

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

I have lived in the Newberg Pool since the 1990s. My property is on the waterfront with a permitted dock.

I am writing in support for SB1589 and asking you to pass this legislation to reduce the damage from large wake surfing boats in the Newberg Pool.

The size and frequency of large wakes produced by these heavy boats is doing irreparable damage to the Willamette River and its environs.

Since these boats started operating on the river in 2005 I have lost significant shoreline along my bank. The amount of bank loss has increased dramatically from 2015 as wakesurfing gained popularity.

I have heard that one of the wake surf proponents hired an engineer to "survey" damage in the Newberg Pool and he spent one day on the river and ended up saying that the shoreline erosion is caused by homeowners.

That is blatantly false.

This is a tactic to blame the victims suffering from damage caused by these large wake boats and it is wrong.

I have lost at least 35 feet along one section of my property and, about 10 feet in the area protected by my dock (which is in great shape and consists of old-growth logs that have been on the river for 60 years.)

In addition, the section of the river directly across from our property has no homes or docks on it and is experiencing severe slides and damage to its riverbanks. The same with Champoeg Park.

This is unacceptable. SB1589 will go a long way to protect habitat, shoreline and make the river much safer for everyone.

Operators of wake surfing and wake boarding boats frequently do not observe the current rules and create unsafe conditions for my family to enjoy the river and our property.

I am deeply concerned about the safety of those enjoying the river. This damaging

behavior is endangering children, pets, small boats, kayakers, swimmers, fishing and other users of the river.

I support recreational uses of the river provided that those activities don't endanger others or harm the river. The Upper Willamette is simply too narrow and its sedimentary banks too fragile. This section of the river is too developed and congested to balance the needs of all users without some type of wake control measures in place.

I urge you to support this bill. It will help protect safety, shoreline, property within the Willamette Greenway and ensure this treasured recreational resource will continue for a wide range of recreation uses for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Gary A. Grieve