

Submitter: Scott Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

To Whom It May Concern:

Here I am again testifying against this bill (and all previous forms of the same bill for the past several years). There is so much wrong with this bill and it will have many unintended consequences. I have sat through hours of testimony in the various committees, and I am shocked with the false information being portrayed about this bill. I am pleading with you members of the Oregon legislature...please do not pass this bill. It will severely and negatively impact hundreds of families, like mine, with none of the benefits advertised.

I am a real life example of someone who will be very negatively impacted. My boat, when fully ballasted, exceeds the proposed 5,000 pound limit. However, when not ballasted, my boat only weighs 3,500 pounds. It is a crossover boat that is designed to have very small wakes when I want it to, and large wakes when I want it to. The boat technology allows me to choose. In fact, my boat puts out much smaller wakes than many of the other boats that are under the 5,000 point limit because of the hull design on my boat. However, this bill expands the requirements for the towed watersports card, making it impossible for me to obtain a card and therefore to tow anything or anyone behind my boat, even if I am pulling a slalom skier with little to no wake! So, under this bill, I could drive my boat within the Newberg Pool, but I could not legally pull a slalom skier (which produces the smallest wakes). This bill makes my boat useless and worthless. I would be forced to move to enjoy it. Please don't make me do this. The current regulations are sufficient. Surfing is only allowed on a very small part of the river with no docks or homes in the vicinity. The arguments for this bill are overstated and misleading. I have been boating on the river for 20 years and I know it better than most. This bill doesn't change anything with the wakes on the river...it just bans my boat from being used.

Please, listen to these opposing views. I am more than happy to take any member of congress on my boat to tour this stretch of river so you can see for yourself what the reality is. You will quickly see that this bill, as currently written, is not the answer.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Scott Williams