

Submitter: Miles Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

I oppose this bill for a range of reasons, but most importantly, it can affect me and my families livelihood as I work in the watersports industry for a small business in Oregon. Shutting down and restricting portions of the river to a specific user is further dividing this community, we use this river in many fashions and these restrictions will do more damage than sticking with the already very restricted waterway. I spent a good amount of time over the last year observing the Upper Willamette and studying what affects the river and its banks. The worst thing I saw was the heavy rains and overwhelming flow of the river eroding the river banks, I've never seen a wakeboat or any watercraft do this much damage, or any damage at that. If you compare the current surf zones to the non surf zones, you'll see no difference, showing us that before we restrict more, we need to examine the surf zones over a longer period of time to understand if wakeboats cause any damage at all. Moving forward with more restrictions is simply an over the top way of handling this issue and we should be working together to share the river instead of divide it.