

Submitter: Chantel Herbert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

Thank you for the opportunity to oppose SB 1589.

My name is Chantel Herbert and I have been a boater and waterskier my entire life. I am now happily working in the boating industry. It is a huge pleasure to be able to help families find a boat that fits their needs and gives them a way to make amazing memories that will last a lifetime. I love being able to share my passion and bring more people into the boating lifestyle.

The Newberg Pool is already one of the most regulated bodies of water in Oregon. Wake surfers are already subject to a weight limit, required to obtain a special safety certification, and only allowed in two small zones, representing less than 15% of the river with no adjacent homes or docks.

Towed water sports have already been confined to such small zones and it makes no sense to restrict it further, especially if you are really concerned about “the preservation of the public peace, health and safety” as stated in the bill. Further restrictions to towed water sports will force boaters into smaller and smaller areas, making it MUCH LESS SAFE for all boaters.

Subjecting only towed water sports enthusiasts to a weight limit is overtly biased. A 5,000lb fishing boat can produce a similar wake to the same size tow boat and a 15,000lb cabin cruiser would produce a significantly larger wake than any wake boat, both of which would still be allowed under this legislation.

This bill also says that AFTER the passage, “the State Marine Board may conduct a study on increasing or decreasing the maximum loading weight”, but it offers no funds or timelines to do so. It is incredibly irresponsible to take something away from so many people without having completed said study ahead of the passage of any laws.

I also want to make sure that everyone here understands the far-reaching impact of this bill as it has been significantly understated. I urge you to vote no on this bill and to take a deeper look at this situation and how many Oregon families will be affected should it pass.

Thank you again for your time.