

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to you today with strong opposition to SB 1589.

We recently moved to the Willamette River at 24075 Butteville RD NE in the Newberg Pool section to retire and enjoy the river with our children and our new grandson. My husband, our family and friends enjoy floating, waterskiing, tubing, wakeboarding, and wakesurfing. We also enjoy swimming off of our dock, paddle boarding, kayaking, and having family gatherings on our boat dock. None of which we feel are interfered with under the current environment of the river, and activities that are carried out on it. We even enjoy the Bass fishermen who motor up around our dock and fish! The river is for everyone to enjoy!

The group pushing these new laws are in fact a small, but vocal group that suggest that the boats being targeted are damaging their docks, and creating erosion, all with no studies or hard evidence. The list of more than 70 homeowners opposing these laws do not see signs of dock damage, and river bank erosion from boats. The fact of the matter is that these folks pushing these "bans" are mostly elderly people that have enjoyed the river at one time, but now do not want to maintain their docks and river banks. A dock is a floating structure that this year alone has raised and fallen due the rain more that 20-25 ft, not to mention the massive amount of debris that comes with high river levels. It is a structure that needs maintenance. Just like any other structure, if you do not maintain it, it will fall apart. Any erosion that might be happening on their river front property is coming from the land in the form of drainage from rain and irrigation from the property as all of the river front properties slope down to the river, and naturally water flows in that direction. If they are not managing these they will have a problem. If boats were causing this the erosion then it would be very widespread, not isolated to 1 or 2 properties. I know that living on the river requires more than normal maintenance of my property and landscaping. I also know that I have to run any drainage from downspouts, or water flow from my sloped property underground and out to the bank, or it will erode my property edge. In addition, I know that I have to weekly walk down to my dock and remove the piling up debris that comes from up river. Be it sticks, logs, tree's, branches, or you name it..... It has floated downriver and the currents pull it right up against our dock. It is par for the course living on the river. I knew this going into it, and actually enjoy maintaining it. When we no longer want to maintain my property, we will move.

Public waterways are intended for the responsible enjoyment and use of the entire community. With very few exceptions, Willamette River power boaters operate and behave responsibly while on the water. Erosion is from the impact of months of rain and winter storms, not from the short season of recreational boating. Claims of wake-caused erosion are not backed by any studies of the Newberg Pool or any other similar local waterway. Claims of negative impact on native fish are not true either. In fact, ODFW Deputy Fish Chief, Bruce McIntosh, says that wake sport activities during the summer months have little to no effect on salmon and steelhead populations as those fish have naturally already migrated to other parts of the river outside of the Newberg Pool.

As a watersport community, we have tried for years to work with this small but vocal group of people. Surf zones were created by the Oregon State Marine Board as well as having to obtaining the required "Towed Sports Certification" through additional education and fees. Personally I feel that the Towed Watersports Certificate is a great thing. But it is notable to mention that the Towed Sports Certificate is only targeted towards wakeboarding and wakesurfing, and no other tow-sports like water skiing and tubing. We have gone as far as even suggesting a directional option that would keep people from passing back and forth in front of someone's home in order to create less of a disturbance on the water. All with no avail, they are not willing to compromise in any direction.

I ask you to take a long look at these rules that are trying to be enforced without any evidence, and reject them outright. In addition, the financial impact passing these rules will have on not only the boat owners, but the businesses that prosper from the money spent to enjoy these boats and the river we recreate on. There is a vast amount of revenue generated within the business communities of Canby, Wilsonville, Aurora and outlying areas.

Law Enforcement should not, and cannot be focused on this. They do not have the time or resources. They should be focusing on enforcing the existing laws and for safety.

Please strongly consider rejecting the proposed laws and focus on what will make our state a better place to live.

Thank you,

Laurie Nadelman