

Submitter: Grady Nelson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

Thank you for allowing my testimony to be reviewed. I am a Wilsonville resident and live on the river. I own a wake boat and have been involved in wake sports for well over 30 years. For the last 3 years I've fought, testified and educated people on the proper use of wake boats and my family and friends have obeyed the constant changing of the rules in the Newberg Pool. The actions that some are taking to abolish the ability of wake surfing in the zones currently laid out in the most restricted portion of the Willamette rivers is an overstep and over reach. I have personally watched as the river has fluctuated seasonally and pulled docks, trees and debris down the river. Those areas are not from the "erosion" of wake boats but more so from property owners who have clear cut their lands all the Way to the river.

Furthermore, throughout the last 2 years there has been a lack of enforcement on the river by law enforcement, being a retired law enforcement officer I know that enforcement curtails any actions prohibited. We as rider users have continued to obey the zones and albeit there will always be individuals who disobey or who are just not fully educated on the rules, abolishing a recreational livelihood that me and my family enjoy is absurd.

We have fought the same narrative by the in favor group for the last 3 years and despite the continued requests from those who oppose this law change, there has been no official study on this River. The continued reference to rivers that don't fluctuate to the degree this portion of the river does, fails to prove any cause and effect that wake boats have on degradation of soils.

Continuing, limiting boats at a weight of 5,000 pounds takes a large portion of boat owners out of their use of something they have purchased to recreate. This would also limit boats that aren't deemed by the pushing parties of eliminating wake boats. These include pontoon boats and others that are no longer allowed to use the public waterways.

Moving on, the impact this will have to Oregon's already massive failing economy especially in small businesses is severely detrimental. This would all but eliminate at least 4 boat dealerships, a marina and hundreds of jobs due to a flawed ruling on data that does not exist.

We as a boating community have tried to comply with the ever changing rules and terms placed on us over the years. This bill continues to be pounded down our throats and we exhaust resources, time and efforts for the "belief" that wakeboats are

bad and no one should surf and recreate if your boat is over 5,000 pounds.

I would propose that a 2 year study be conducted on this portion of the river through all seasons and measure whether the relations to the boat traffic is actually causing what some say as “destroying” the waterways. Until you can show the cause and effect of the actions to this River (where the seasonal flow is massive and the summers have limited use throughout the full week), there is no reason to terminate the waterway usage of some on speculation. The ability to stand before those who oppose the ban and show them the results of a study in “this area” show boats cause the problem would hold so much more weight than the over reaching of the minority that spew unproven opinions.

In closing, when you hear of complains of noise from areas like the airport in Aurora Oregon and individuals complaining about airplanes you see that tests are done to observe that specific area. They don't rely on data from other countries or other airports with multiple different variables. They study the noise at that location. When police and or ODOT/or city public works get complaints of speeding and requests for speed changes or speed bumps be put in place, those organizations don't put in what's requested based on traffic flow in other areas, they research it and put in monitoring devices to see to it that data from that area of complaint is observed. We want specific data from this river.