

Submitter: Brian Farthing

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

As a lifelong Oregonian and a member of the recreational boating community, I am writing to ask you oppose Senate Bill 1589. Growing up in a family fortunate to have a boat for pleasure, fishing, and floating, I've seen most of what the rivers have to offer. After finally getting a boat 18 months ago for my family to be able to enjoy the waterways, I'm afraid this bill would ruin the area we most enjoy.

The Newburg pool is already heavily regulated, and after spending one day on the lower Willamette, I'm scared to put my kids in the water down there due to the many infractions, unsafe boating and absence of enforcement already. What is needed is more education and enforcement, not regulation.

With this Bill, the expanded area all the way to the falls will be suddenly taxed for me, and the small area I'm allowed to enjoy without this tax will be gone creating an additional burden on my family. One thing I've noticed, there are several areas in the Newburg pool that have had heavy modifications of the shoreline (lack of trees for support, and no stones that strengthen the short line). Also, most of the erosion that I'm seeing is feet above the water level of the summer boating season. With that, where is the peer reviewed study to identify the impacts of wakes vs a flooding season in our region? On the contrary, there are also studies that show after 200 feet, the energy is reduced to minimal impact.

Finally, this law does nothing to stop large wakes, but puts a tax/ban on towed sports, why add all towed sports? Why ban boats only when towing? This doesn't address the actual problem, but keeps people from enjoying recreationally distant activities. How many more tons of CO2 will be put in the air when hundreds of people start pulling their rigs/boats to farther away areas? How does winter/spring spawning (primary salmon run) get impacted by wakes when no wakeboarders are on the river when it's that cold?

This is tax/death to recreational fun.

Please vote no on this joke of a bill.