

Submitter: Jonathan Ross

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

My name is Jonathan Ross. I work at a small local marine business in the Portland area. I strongly oppose SB 1589. If passed it will directly impact me, my co-workers and those we serve on the upper Willamette River. I grew up boating on the river and see it as the ultimate place to enjoy family, relaxation and to just get away from the grind of everyday life. I have met some truly awesome people who have spent their lives saving up to be able to live and play on the river. Taking away the ability to enjoy water sports on craft above 5,000 pounds is absolutely ridiculous. I have seen boats that weigh less than 5,000 pounds put out waves and wakes that are similar to those being banned.. Roughly 4-5 months out of the year do most people use the river for this kind of recreation. The rest of the year the river lays empty and void of these craft. Banning the larger boats will cause many of these families to go boat in other bodies of water thus over crowding them and making for a dangerous situation elsewhere. Hearing from local law enforcement there is already such a small amount of personnel that respond to water related accidents that it makes it almost impossible to enforce these rules and uphold the laws. I feel that further education for new boaters and proper information needs to be at the top of this debate. I hope that we can find a way to work together on both sides to allow everyone to enjoy the river in a safe and fun manor. The river has been here for hundreds of years and will still be flowing and changing naturally for many years to come. Let's take the time to come up with a solid solution and work together to enjoy this wonderful place.

Thank you.

Jonathan M. Ross