

Submitter: Bryan Soles
On Behalf Of: Murray hill boaters
Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources
Measure: SB1589

I urge you to oppose SB 1589. The bill is unnecessary and is designed by special interest groups to overregulate Oregon waterways. They are bad public policy and will further impact Oregon families and small businesses.

The 5000 pound weight limit in SB 1589 is not a restriction—it's practically an outright ban on towing that kicks off more than two-thirds of the families who recreate in the Newberg Pool, preventing parents from pulling their kids on a tube behind an affordable, multi-purpose boat.

Furthermore, the Newberg Pool is already one of the most highly regulated waterways in Oregon. Wakesurfers and wakeboarders are already limited to a 3-mile, mostly uninhabited stretch of the river. They are also subject to additional safety certifications, annual taxes and existing weight limits.

According to safety officials, SB 1589 will make our waterways less safe and more crowded by pushing more than 250 boats on to other lakes and rivers throughout Oregon.

Additionally this bill will decimate small businesses that depend on the river.

Recreational boating brings \$1.6 billion in annual economic impact to Oregon. It supports almost 6,000 jobs and more than 400 businesses, including marinas, gas stations, mechanics, restaurants, dealers and more. This year, we need to be squarely focused on bolstering small business recovery and fueling our local economy.

This legislation is born out of special interest agendas and is not representative of the community at large. These policy agendas are put forth by groups whose ultimate goal is to diminish motorized boating across Oregon. Our waterway policies should not favor select waterfront homeowners and paddlers looking to eliminate motorized boating for their own personal gain.

Finally, the proposed regulations called for in SB 1589 is purposely designed by special interest groups to serve their agenda. It is a deliberate attempt to pave the way for even more drastic regulations that don't benefit the broader boating community

I hope you will consider the impact of these unnecessary proposals and vote against this bill during this legislative session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bryan R Soles