

Submitter: David Owen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

I have been boating on this section of the Willamette for many years. It is how we bond with our older daughters and their boyfriends in the summer. We do not drive aggressively and adhere to all the rules on the river. We see larger and faster boats that do not tow anything driving recklessly and cause more problems along the river. They would not be affected by this. We see construction and disrepair on the houses and private piers that cause more damage. They would not be affected by this.

You are taking a critical recreational activity away from tax-paying Oregonians based on pressure from groups. I don't believe this is fair and I do not believe our activities are damaging the riverway. During COVID, there are very few activities that we can love and share with our family and friends. Why do you feel the need to take this away? Yes, there are other places where we can do this, but we have invested in our slip and it is one of the few places we have been where boaters watch out for each other. When we boat downtown, all sizes of boats are causing waves and are unaware of people in the water. When we go to Haag Lake, it is too small for a large number of boats and during peak hours is a very dangerous place to be in the water. Detroit is 2 hours away, has problems with Blue Algae which closes it down often, and is affected by forest fires routinely.

If you take this section of the river away from families that want to enjoy an incredibly fun activity, where is this going to stop. PLEASE do not take this activity away from us based on the desires of a few.

Thank you,  
David