

Submitter: Steve Hockett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

I am a long time boat owner and user of the Newberg Pool Willamette River area. I strongly oppose this bill to limit the size of boats that can use this stretch of water and further limit the already severely restricted sport of Wake Surfing. The newer rules already in place for this area are not being patrolled and enforced by law enforcement so how is changing the boat weight limit and restricting surfing going to change how the river is used?

I use this stretch of river 3-5 times a week, various times of the day, for 5-6 months of the year. I rarely see officers enforcing the current regulations and the lack of adequate large signs indicating the rules show people don't even know about the current regulations.

Restricting the use of the larger boats will significantly harm the boating industry and outdoor recreation industry in this area so this is another reason I oppose this bill.

If this bill is enacted, will the state provide personnel to be at all of the main boat ramps along this stretch of river, including Newberg, Wilsonville and Hebb park to have them handing out information to every boat being launched between 6am-9pm during the summer hours?

Also, will this bill restrict larger pleasure cruiser boats, fishing boats, and any other type of craft that is over 5,000 lbs? Those boats make just as big of a wake as any other boat so should be restricted as well.

Again, I am opposed to this bill and hope you will vote it down.

Sincerely,

Steve Hockett

30+ year boat owner in Oregon who is fully certified, both as a driver and on the boat.