

Submitter: Ben Ford

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

Please vote no on SB1589. This bill would unfairly restrict access to public waterways, and prevent hundreds of families like mine from participating in watersports that we love. Having grown up with access to local lakes and rivers, I have looked forward to sharing the same experience with my own daughters, age 6 and 2. If boats and watersports are restricted on the Willamette River, there will not be accessible waterways in the Portland Metro area, forcing families to drive hours to the nearest water that allows boats and watersports. This will have a significant impact on local businesses such as marinas and boat dealerships, making the Portland area even less attractive to families and business owners. I urge you to consider alternatives to this legislation and go spend a summer on the water before you remove access rights to a public waterway from your constituents.