

Submitter: Austin Walker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

I, Austin Walker, am writing you today to oppose the proposed SB1589. I live in West Linn near Hebb park. Our family and friends boat and paddle board all summer long. We are on the river nearly every day from April through September. We moved to this neighborhood to be on the water during the summer months and this proposed legislation will regulate us and many of our neighbors out of using the river.

It is clear to me, the impact from winter storms cause more erosion and a greater impact on the rivers health than specifically boating. The towed watersports certificate was a great step in the right direction, along with setting up specific areas for surfing that do not impact homes and docks on the water. The primary issue that needs to be addressed is the enforcement on the river and education surrounding the wake surfing sport. Wake surfing is currently limited to a VERY small section of the river where it was already found to have enough room for wake dissipation and there are no homes or docks along the stretch.

Create a path that allows wake surfing and towed water sports for all, with a greater focus on improving the enforcement on the water. Simply removing certain boats will not solve the problems this bill sets to address.

Austin Walker - 503-516-1919