

Submitter: Pat Soles
On Behalf Of: Barewest Wakeboard and Fishing Towers
Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources
Measure: SB1589

As you are fully aware, the Newberg Pool is already highly regulated and very specific areas have been designated for particular towing sports. The proposed regulation would cross over into "unnecessary, arbitrary and over-regulation" that seems to be mostly fueled by political favor and influence rather than evidence and science. Creating over-regulation for all boaters/users of the public waterway to the benefit of a few smacks of unreasonable action "lazy legislation behavior". A very small number of "bad boaters" that behave unsafely or with a lack of respect for homeowners and other boaters, as well as disregard for the river habitat and general environment does not call for over-regulation, but rather better enforcement of current standing rules and regulations. I have boated in that waterway significantly over the last few years; our marine service shop is located in Hubbard and we operate boats in that waterway both for business and pleasure. I have witnessed a few "bad apples" that needed to be addressed for sure and the resources to do so were simply not available. These proposed arbitrary regulations will likely not even come close to resolving any of the perceived issues at hand. The few bad apples will likely be ignorant of the new rules (as many boaters were about the existing rules now in place) or they will simply ignore them and boat anyway, in whatever manner they wish. Without enforcement resources, neither current regulations or your proposed Over-Regulations will resolve any issues.

The issue at hand is having a safe waterway that serves all the potential users as well as the needs of the land owners and the river itself. Since there is no actual evidence that the boats that are participating in towed water sports have any significant impact on the health of the river and/or fish, creating unnecessary over-regulation in a failed attempt to resolve an issue is only going to cause greater frustration among the entire community. If land owners are concerned about the protection of their property, then enforcing the existing rules and regulations would more than suffice. Bottomline, this proposed over-regulation doesn't address the true issue and if implemented, will likely result in your body having to go through this process again in the near term or simply being mired in calls and email and communication with ongoing frustration by all parties involved. I cannot imagine that with everything that we currently face in our State, spending time and effort on trying to "Fix" something that was very recently already addressed, makes any sense. The current regulations have not even been in place long enough to determine if they themselves are effective, particularly since they have been under-enforced due to lack of resources.

As a small business that serves the boating community in the immediate area of this

waterway, I have direct contact with many of the parties involved. Not only would the proposed regulations be harmful to our business, they would likely have a more broad negative impact to the boating industry in our community. Restricting a very popular form of recreation on a public waterway is, in my opinion, in very bad form when there is no real "proof" that the steps proposed resolve anything other than allowing political favoritism to meet the desires of a few, that have undue influence.