

Submitter: Randahl Holder

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

Hello,

My friends and I grew up waterskiing on the upper and lower Willamette river. We were some of the first to own, what one would call, a Tournament Waterskiing Towboat. The Ross Island channel was one of our favorite spots. A fairly long narrow channel that we would ski from morning to dusk. In recent years, legislation has eliminated that piece of water from water skiers and towboat activities. So many reasons given, safe for paddlers, safe for erosion just to name a few. What I have noticed is an influx of derelict boats and pollution to our waterways. Now we want to restrict another section of water. I have watched and participated in the evolution of Tow Sports, while I still remain a water skier, I enjoy and appreciate the talents of these next generation enthusiasts. With that being said, a certain amount of responsibility comes with it. When Wakeboarding first arrived, in the late 80's, it presented an issue with wake size and the damage it caused to docks. Then, along came wakesurfing. Bigger boats and larger waves. I welcome all boating activities, however we need to enforce rules that are already in place. And we also need to educate ALL boaters about the damage that, large wakes, can do to docks and other structures. I have friends that own property on the lower Willamette across from Waverly Country Club. This past summer I was working on the dock when a large Cabin cruiser went by. The resulting wake lifted up both section of dock, shifted their position and when they came back down, ripped off a 12' 2x12 facial board. Not a ski boat, wakeboard boat or a wake surf boat. Is the next step to ban all boating on the Willamette River?. Lets hope not. My favorite stretch of water was from the I-5 Bridge in Wilsonville to Newberg park. We then would ski the Slalom course, in the channel just upriver from the park. You could always count on finding flat water somewhere along that stretch of water. There are already restricted zones from 10th Street all the way to Newberg. Enforcing these areas along with education is what I would encourage these proceedings to consider. Monies from our registration, I believe, helps to pay for enforcement. I have witnessed many instances of "Large wake" or "No Wake" offenders, from ALL types of Boats. The stretch of water from the Wilsonville Bridge to Champoeg is a highly concentrated area of homes with docks and other structures on the water. This area needs to be enforced, with fines being issued. ALL boaters need to realize the damage wakes can do to structures not to mention the possibility of injury to someone. In an era where "cancel culture", is the knee jerk response to many things, how about we handle this as a minority rather than a majority. Educate everyone, fine, heavily, the violators and reward the responsible boaters. No leniency for violators. They are required to complete a Boaters Safety Certification. They Know the rules. Time for them to abide or pay the

consequences. Stop punishing those of us that pay our fees, follow the rules and are enjoying our waterways...Thank you