

Submitter: Darby Collins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

February 8, 2024

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfires

Chair Senator Jeff Golden

Vice-Chair Senator Fred Girod

Senator Floyd Prozanski

Senator David Brock Smith

Senator Kathleen Taylor

Re: Opposition to SB1590

Dear Chair Golden and Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to SB1590.

I live in the Newberg Pool on the Willamette River at River Mile 40.5 in Wilsonville. Last summer, with the implementation of SB1589, we had the best summer on the river that we've had in 15 years. Without the large wake boats and wake surfing we could finally go back out on the river on the weekends with our ski boat, our grandchildren and our kayaks.

We also saw an increase in river traffic from kayakers, skiers, pontoons, fishing boats and stand-up-paddle boaters. It was amazing and wonderful. The legislation worked — making the river safer for more people to recreate while protecting sensitive fish and wildlife habitat.

SB1590 is a draconian attempt to roll back safety and environmental progress on this narrow, sensitive section of the Willamette River.

A peer-reviewed study by the University of Minnesota in 2019 that found large wake boats need to be at least 500 feet from the shoreline or any structures like docks or other boats to avoid damage.

Seems pretty simple to me that these boats should not operate in the Newberg Pool which is only 500 to 600 feet wide, environmentally sensitive and home to many endangered species.

Scientists and credited engineers from Oregon State University, University of Portland and the University of Minnesota as well as others from around the world have PROVEN these boats are destructive.

SB1589 did not ban boating. 99 percent of motorized boats in Oregon can still recreate in the Newberg Pool.

SB1589 simply re-directed the heaviest boats (about 1 percent), that are designed to make surf waves, to more suitable bodies of water, where wake sports can occur safely without environmental damages or impacting the safety of other waterway users.

Please don't undo the progress that has been done in the Newberg Pool. Vote NO on SB1590.

Follow in Gov. McCall's courageous efforts to protect the Willamette River and its Greenway and protect the sensitive Newberg Pool and the environment in the Willamette Greenway.

Sincerely,

Darby Collins  
Wilsonville Oregon