

Dear Chair Golden and Committee Members,

I strongly urge you to oppose SB 1590, this anti-Willamette River-bill introduced by Senator Mark Meek.

Please consider the following before taking any action in your Committee on SB 1589.

- This bill undermines critical protections (e.g., 5,500 lb. weight restriction) that guard against artificial waves caused by wake boats. These artificial waves impact the river's fragile ecology in the nearshore areas of the river.
- The nearshore areas are nurseries of the river. For example, juvenile Spring Chinook salmon (and other species) utilize these areas in the spring and summer. Artificial waves have their biggest impact on these fragile ecosystems and are significantly affected by artificial waves from wake boats.
- Wake boats are a problem in not only Oregon, but across the country. Since the industry has decided it should have zero accountability, it is up to Oregon to establish common sense law to limit the negative affects the industry creates with little repercussion.
- Wake boats affect everyone else on the river! Their 4ft waves slam into kayakers, swimmers, the shoreline, private docks, other power boats, as well as the fragile nearshore habitat.

Removing wake boats has made the river much more attractive and has enabled a far higher number of people to safely recreation in and on our Willamette River. That has indeed democratized, and increased access to the river.

Oregon has every right to set rules for rivers owned by the State of Oregon on behalf of the people. Please do not advance SB 1590!