

Submitter: Roger Kofler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

SB 1590 would repeal the hard won weight restrictions on wake boats in the Newberg Pool area of the Willamette River. I have been a recreational user of the Willamette River for close to seventy years. When I am on the river paddling my canoe, I make every effort to stay out of the way of power boats. However there is no staying out of the way of the wakes created by Wake Boats: they come to you, regardless of what you do, short of staying home! Wake boats are big powerful boats that are designed to cause as large a wake as possible. These wakes are usually around four feet high, but can run to six feet high; especially when multiple boats are operating in close proximity to each other. These wakes present a mortal danger to other river users; especially the hand powered boats that have exploded in popularity in recent years, but also to swimmers and smaller power boats. The State of Oregon spends millions of dollars annually to restore the salmon runs. However wakes from Wake Boats cause erosion of the river banks, which, in turn, makes the river muddy; salmon do not spawn in muddy water. This is not to mention the damage to docks, moored or anchored boats and other private property. In my opinion, Wake Boats should only be allowed on the Columbia River, which is large enough to absorb the waves created by them. Please do not remove the restrictions already in place governing the use and size of Wake Boats. Please vote NO on SB 1590. Thank you.