

Submitter: Daniela Brod
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure: SB1590

Dear Committee Members- Please oppose SB 1589.

The Willamette offers opportunities for a wide range of watersports to enjoy its natural areas. To be fair and to protect the economic benefits these watersports provide riverside communities - one form of recreation should not preclude or significantly impair others. I personally grew up on the Willamette and spent 100s of hours waterskiing, canoeing, sailing, and swimming on and in the river. I enjoyed ALL these sports. None of them required a boat to make artificial and damaging waves. Eliminating the 5,500 lb weight restriction will unleash significant impacts to nearshore areas and impact the enjoyment of many other stakeholders.

The nearshore areas are Spring Chinook salmon nurseries of the river. These areas will be directly and negatively impacted by these artificial waves -harming not only the salmon but also other wildlife that rely on the areas.

I am proud that Oregon took leadership on this issue. Unfortunately, by sticking its neck out - Oregon has gotten the attention of the wake boat industry so this common sense law will not take root in other parts of the country. Please continue to take leadership in protecting our natural environment and passing common sense laws that protect other uses of the river.

Last, my family owned a dock along the river for all of my childhood. Luckily, these boats did not exist in the 1980s and 90s. If they did, maintenance of our dock would have been far more difficult, if not impossible without large monetary outlays. From the perspective of someone who pays taxes and doesn't want my state to become subject of lawsuits where the plaintiffs could win - I would think Oregon would not want to willfully and knowingly pass a law that would directly impact such expensive private property assets.