

Submitter: Darren Holsey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

I am a 22-year riverfront homeowner on the Willamette River in Wilsonville. I am smack-dab in the middle of the Newberg Pool as this area is commonly known.

I, like nearly all of the other Newberg Pool homeowners, whole-heartedly support SB 1590.

Since 2005, myself and many others, worked with the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) staff as part of workgroups to develop a usage plan for the Newberg Pool. The workgroups were made up of riverfront homeowners, business interests, paddlers, personal watercraft enthusiasts, fishermen and even local law enforcement. What came out of the many years of collaborative work was a compromise solution that allowed everyone to continue to enjoy river access. Carefully planned zones for wake surfing and to keep activities away from docks to avoid congestion and promote safety were developed, and they had begun to work!

These planned zones had only gone into their 2nd year of being when everything was overturned needlessly and without collaboration by the legislation currently in place that SB 1590 would repeal. There was no conversation or thought put into the economics of the law, no assessment of the OSMB zones and whether they were already working, and certainly no thought as to the impact on families in the area that recreated on the river. Rather, a few buzz words were thrown out to elicit a response (erosion, fish habitat and safety) without any actual evidence because that is how you get the uninformed to follow. These same arguments are going to be put forth by opponents of SB 1590, but the reality is that they don't have the good of others at heart, but just their own agendas. "Not in my back yard" is the underlying theme and always has been - ever since the start of the OSMB working groups 15 years ago. When crowding didn't work as a reason to restrict boating, they went to other tactics, that in an environmentally conscious state like Oregon work. You claim erosion or harm to fish, and you do this whether it's true or not. Having lived for many years and growing up playing on the river, I can tell you it is NOT!

The OSMB zones were working to get people to "play away" from the docks, and that is why a return to the rules created by the OSMB makes sense to open the river back up those that live her and to those in the surrounding area that love it.

Again, I have lived on the river for 22 years, and grew up in this area recreating on the river over the past 50 years. Prior to moving to the river, I could trailer my boat anywhere I wanted. But now, my boats are moored in my dock, and I don't have the

ability to go elsewhere since I cannot trailer my boats with any ease. Effectively, the current legislation stripped my family and most of my neighbors in the Newberg Pool the ability to use our boats on the body of water we wanted to live and boat on. The boats we have owned and used for years suddenly became illegal to use to tow a rider or tube. A huge slap in the face!

Please support SB 1590 and the overwhelming majority. It's the right thing to do.