

Submitter: Cathy Arp

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

I oppose SB 1590 100%. There are many many ways to recreate on the river that don't cause damage like these wake boats do. A very small minority of relatively wealthy users wants to have access at any cost! I personally have seen previously stable banks washing away on private property from wakeboat over-sized powerful waves. These waves disturb or are unsafe for other river users, wildlife, water quality, and structures built for normal river conditions. These wakeboats create over-sized, abnormal, destructive nuisance waves for the pleasure of a very small minority of river users. They can't be justified. Keep the protections and restrictions in place that ban wakeboats.

I grew up on the Columbia, with a family boat, have kayaks and a paddle board, have windsurfed, swim, fish, and love our PNW rivers. I support most water sports but wakeboats are way too destructive. They are the only water sport that negatively destroys and reshapes what were permanent shorelines, adding tons of silt to the water, damaging natural habitat, and making unsafe conditions for all other users and many creatures. It's ridiculous that we have to revisit this proposal. Their access should not even be considered. The Willamette is not suitable for wakeboats, nor wakeboats suitable for the Willamette. Please don't succumb to the pressure from this small minority of users wanting to put wakeboats where they absolutely don't belong, again!!! Just say no. Thank you.