

Submitter: Jeff Maxwell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

I stand in support of SB 1590, a measure crucial for enhancing public access to towed water sports in the Newberg Pool area. This bill reflects a collaborative effort, incorporating input from a diverse group of stakeholders including small businesses, environmentalists, and homeowners to ensure the restoration of carefully planned zones. These zones are designed to balance the enjoyment of water sports with the safety of river users and the protection of our environment.

SB 1590 also upholds the continuation of the Oregon State Marine Board's Newberg Pool Towed Watersports Education Program. This program is vital for educating boaters on safety measures, wave management, and their responsibilities on the water. Additionally, the bill proposes a standardized factory weight limit for boats, addressing enforcement challenges and streamlining compliance for consumers and the marine board alike.

Importantly, evidence suggests that waves from boating activities, when conducted at a safe distance from the shore, do not significantly impact shorelines or fish populations. In fact, residential development and natural events like winter storms pose a far greater threat to shoreline erosion in the Newberg Pool. It's critical that our policies reflect these findings, promoting a balance between recreational access and environmental conservation.

I urge the consideration of SB 1590 not only as a means to enhance recreational opportunities but as a testament to our ability to enact thoughtful, evidence-based policies that serve our communities and the environment alike.