

Submitter: Jeff Clark
On Behalf Of: SB 1590
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure: SB1590

Hello,

I feel strongly that you should oppose SB 1590, introduced by Senator Mark Meek.

I love being on the Willamette river and consider it one of the brightest treasures in Oregon. I love to fish, bird, kayak/canoe, hunt, and picnic along the Willamette. I understand that when I'm on the water there are other users and I usually have fun sharing the day with them even if they have a different way of recreating. I'm also used to the urban and rural noises along the river. Electric pumps, music, kids laughing, boat motors, road traffic and even jets landing at PDX. I can say with confidence that the activity of wake boarding has greatly out-sized effects on the river and the other users on and around it. Wake boaters generate greater noise, river damage, and dangerous on water navigation issues to most of the other users.

This all reminds me of the OHV issues that existed at the outset of the boom in that user group. Over time the damage and effects on other users and the environment was shown to be too much and then areas were set aside on public land for them. They still create damage and noise but now they do less damage to the rest of the resource and find community in areas where they can congregate together. Wake boats should not be able to create the damage they have done to the river and to the recreational experience of other users that outnumber them. There may be areas on the river where the banks are hardened to wake boat use and where they will do less damage. This is where their noise will blend into the urban soundscape, and they have more spectators to perform for. I think energy would be better put to improving these areas for their enjoyment as it would be a win for their user group.

Thank you,
Jeff Clark