

Submitter: Emma Dougherty

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

I have lived on the upper Willamette for 10 years. It has been the best decision we have ever made. But now taking away our water sports and wake surfing has been ruining our environment and our community. The rules that are in place now are pointless. While the rule that is set in place is no wake surfing whatsoever and no wake sports if your boat is over 5,000+lbs. Yet, I still can fill up my ballast in my boat and create the same wave we do when we surf and go up and down the river all day long and that is legal. Once I throw a rope behind the boat with someone surfing on the wave it's illegal. The rules need to be corrected. Giving back our surf zones where there are no houses was great. We don't need to give everything back we just need a compromise. What people don't realize is that all winter long the river goes up and down due to the amount of rain we get in Oregon. Living on the river requires maintenance. You need to take care of your docks, your banks, your yards. Without this and having your banks go neglected and with the water going up and down all river then yes there will be landslides. With the rules put in place in the last years there are still banks that are sliding. Yet, no banks have slid at all in the old surf zones. The wake community is a great place for kids to get away and enjoy summer with their friends. Kids have a hard time as it is growing up and taking away a place where they can enjoy time off of school with their friends is not helping. We care a lot about our river and don't want to destroy it but we also don't want it to be created into a place of negativity when your out on your boat. It's no fun sitting on your boat getting pictures taken of you or people flipping you off or yelling at you. We care for the Willamette and want to make it a community for everyone. I support SB 1590.