

Submitter: Kaspar Murer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee,

I oppose SB1590.

Just like the folks living at the Newberg Pool, I have been deeply involved in this wake conversation ever since our Wasabi VIP dragon boat with 12 blind paddlers got capsized and all 18 paddlers tossed into the river by wake boat wakes six years ago.

My dragon boat team got swamped at least four times. The first our coach was sitting in the front of the boat. A wall of water washed over her shoulders and filled the boat with several hundred gallons of water instantly.

In a two year period several dozen teams got swamped, many of them more than once, about ten capsized, an eight-person rowing shell with high school students broke in half, before sensible rules created a much safer environment for human powered river users and floating homes.

I am grateful that the Senate and House have already passed strong safety regulations, which were implemented by the Marine Board and the Sheriffs in the Newberg Pool and the Lower Willamette River. This proposed new regulation SB1590 would take away critical protections in the already existing regulations and make the river more dangerous for human powered watercraft and other river users.

Please reject SB1590.

Thank you.

Kaspar Murer

Wasabi Paddling Club