

Submitter: Rodney Myrick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

Please allow boaters back on the river and enjoy the summer with their friends and families.

The reasoning for pushing the families off the water is not the environmental concerns that people note. We know that because finishing boats create the same wakes as rec boaters and rec boaters are on the water a lot less. The law went too far and outlawed boat that are under the weight limits with ballast empty from even towing children on a tube.

I look at the Willamette almost every day and in the winter the water rises, and the entire river turns a sediment brown by Newberg due to runoff. In the summer the water is clear and clean, what actions are being blamed on boaters is really on mother nature and a lack of river volume control allowing the banks to get saturated and soft. I have been to very remote spots on the river that are only accessible by jet boats and the entire bank is eroded from winter floods to the point a cabin is nearly falling in the river, that has nothing to do with boaters, it is a natural winter event with the river raising and sometimes flooding.

The testing from OSU years ago also said "could cause erosion", there was nothing definitive about the results, yet lawmakers kicked families off the river from a great sport and family activity.

Finally, with the rise in mental illness, we need find and keep activities that bring joy and meaning to people's lives. The river offers all of that and is to be shared by all.