

To whom it may concern,

I am on a visually impaired dragon boat team with the Wasabi Boat Club and 6 years ago my team "VIP" was tossed in the water in the Willamette River when a motor boat zoomed by our boat and their wake flipped our boat. Imagine how terrifying it is for blind paddlers to unexpectedly find themselves in the middle of the river. Some of the sighted people on our boat have observed motor boats purposely driving close to our boat sending large wakes our way and they were laughing as they zoomed by us as we struggled to paddle through it. Some motor boat drivers are unaware of the dangers they cause to non-motorized crafts but others are purposely malicious and that is not right.

I am begging you to please uphold the existing regulation SB1859 since it has allowed more non-motorized activities in the river to be safer and more enjoyable for many people including residents of floating homes. Everything is working well the way things are now so please do not implement SB1590 so we can have continued enjoyment and safety on the river. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Amy Rear