



**PO BOX 444,
Gladstone, OR 97027**

To: Legislative Assembly Special Session February 2024 (Regarding Senate Bill 1590)

Dear Legislators:

This letter is written in support of the existing restrictions of ballasted boats in the Newberg Pool.

We are Rivers of Life Center, a non-profit working with youth and young adults in Oregon. We specifically work on environmental projects that most bypass to produce an interactive method of solving environmental problems with business and industry. We are unique in this regard. Our Founding President, Jerry Herrmann, also founded the Environmental Learning Center at Clackamas Community College. He, his staff, and community worked with business and industry always to solve problems related to the environment. He was a recipient of the Tom McCall J. Herbert Stone Award for Oregon for those efforts. Rivers of Life Center was recognized over the last 3 years by the State of Oregon, State Department of Forestry, and the Jimmy Carter Peace Initiative Award.

We are speaking in this brief document about the importance of dealing with the Willamette River in a sensitive and beneficial way to natural resources and the communities. We want to clearly state that the removal of the protections of shorelines, properties, and fish and wildlife resources should not occur due to Senate Bill 1590. The existing law protects very sensitive shorelines and habitats from Yamhill River (Newberg) to Willamette Falls. This is the area where fine sediments have always been deposited behind Willamette Falls thus creating great farmlands and crop-growing opportunities. Those sediments are very prone to slump and related erosion because of major wake-induced disturbances. Already erosion impacts have been diminished in the last two year this protective restriction was put into place.

We reached out to the Wakeboard Boating representative 2 years ago to see what could be done to put together a cooperative program. We never heard anything back except that restrictions were occurring everywhere and they were very concerned. Governor Tom McCall of the late 1960's and 1970's delivered many things to our State and his legislative legacy. We

have a clean river that was in fact the worst of the West and the top 3 most polluted in America. We have industrial processes, mills, municipal treatment plants from southern most Valley cities all the way to the Columbia River. Paddleboarders, wakeboarders, fishermen, canoeists, and industry owe a thanks to the leadership of the past that delivered a river we can all use. Let's not quit on that legacy of accomplishment.

Sincerely,

Jerry Herrmann
President
Rivers of Life Center
Website: www.riversoflifecenter.org