

Testimony on SB 1590

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- Good morning Chair Golden and Committee Member.
- My name is David Gorman and I am a registered civil and environmental engineer in the State of Oregon.
- I have evaluated the potential impact to Willamette River bank erosion within the Newberg Pool from towed water sports and have submitted my report to testimony in support of SB 1590.
- The relevance of my report to SB 1590 is that arguments in opposition to the bill often site the damage to the riverbank and docks resulting from the wakes caused by the boats.
- I encourage you to review the report in your consideration of SB 1590.
- **The title of the report is “Willamette River Newberg Pool Towed Water Sport Zone and Wake Surfing and Water Skiing Zone River Bank Erosion Documentation and Evaluation”.**
- As part of my evaluation I boated the entire Newberg Pool Towed Water Sport zone from RM 30 to RM 50 multiple times during low flow to evaluate river bank conditions and erosion.
- River bank erosion and its location within the Newberg Pool was examined to determine its potential cause, and more specifically what contribution to erosion was caused by Towed Water Sports.
- I observed 10 instances of minor bank erosion and 11 instances of more significant erosion over 20 miles of river, which is very minor concentration.
- Nearly all of the erosion and bank failures within the Newberg Pool were associated with intense residential development and residential activity.
- River banks associated with an agricultural landuse within the study area almost exclusively had stable banks with healthy riparian vegetation, despite being subjected to boat wakes.
- There was little or no evidence to suggest that wakes from boats heavier than 4000 pounds, or any weight class, were causing bank erosion and failure.
- Bank erosion from Towed Water Sports wakes within the Newberg Pool should not be a factor in deciding the fate SB 1590.
- I encourage you to review my report for more information and support SB 1590.
- Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.