

Submitter: David Swartout

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

My family and I have been safe boaters on in the Newberg Pool for 10 years. SB 1590 will increase public access to towed water sports for hundreds of families like mine along the Newberg Pool. I think it is important that we have carefully planned zones by the OSMB, shaped with input from diverse river stakeholders including small businesses, environmentalists and homeowners. These zones ensure safety for river users and the environment by limiting towed water sports to suitable areas.

Implementing a standardized factory weight limit not only prevents larger boats from towing riders but also streamlines enforcement. The present weight limit (combined factory dry weight and ballast) has no national standard which has posed significant challenges for consumers to determine if their boat is eligible and for the marine board to accurately enforce.

There is no empirical evidence or peer-reviewed study that links the current restrictions to having any positive effect on fish populations. Wake sports largely take place in the summer, outside of key migratory or spawning months. Studies show that wake boats waves, when operated at least 200 feet from shore, do not carry enough energy to have a significant impact on most shorelines.

Please on behalf of safe boaters in Oregon, support SB 1590