

Submitter: Ronald Bergan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

Hello,

My wife and I own property on the Willamette River and have a private dock on the water installed by a local contractor.

We support this bill and believe it will help bring back enjoyment of the river by many families that now are forced to travel elsewhere to enjoy water sports. Since the closure of the water sports zone and implementation of the weight restrictions we have personally seen a very large reduction on the number of boaters on the river. While we live on the river and less traffic is actually nice for us we feel that these restrictions are unfair to the boating community of clackamas county by restricting access to the few boaters with smaller boats. Reinstitution of the surf zones and allowing larger boat weights is a very good compromise to allow a wider use of the river.

We have also personally seen the impact to businesses in the area. We would like to buy a new boat from a local dealer but the restriction caused us to pause the purchase as we realized that we would not be able to use a new boat in our own backyard. I have heard this issue from the many dealers in the area and how it has impacted their business.

We have witnessed first hand the causes of erosion on our own property. The majority of the issues are caused by the fluctuating water levels and velocity of water during the winter months, we have not seen erosion caused by water sports. We believe a better use of the funds would be improvement of water management at the Oregon City Falls location, opening the locks again and working together on better education on how to minimize wake impact on the river. Currently boats can cause just as big of waves as towed water sports by simply plowing through the water at slow speeds. Having watched many of these boaters in action from our own dock I can honestly say people just don't know any better.

We would be glad to get involved in a volunteer fashion to help with the implementation of this bill and education of boaters on the river.

Thank you very much for reconsidering how we can all enjoy the Newberg Pool.