

Submitter: Nolan Farr

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

Have lived in the area since 1986 and have countless memories on the Willamette near Wilsonville. Whether on a friends boat or my own, the area has fostered an appreciation for the incredible surroundings and joy that comes with water-sports. The river is for everyone to enjoy and is unique for its location and width for boats of all sizes and most importantly, wake size. Technology has come a long ways from the early 90s when we first began experimenting with enhanced wakes for wake surfing and boarding. Especially over the last couple years, boats are keenly designed to develop a large wake that quickly dissipates in a short distance. Drivers are given an incredible amount of knowledge by dealers and online tutorials to keep the waters safe and enjoyable for all.

Most importantly, no one individual or group owns the river. I was appalled that a small group of agitated residents were able to influence local politicians to pass an ordinance that only benefited their own passion of paddle boarding and canoeing. They used data from a river in Minnesota (I believe) to argue that wakes from boats were causing erosion along the banks of the Willamette and for this, the state legislature passed a costly and unfounded law that immediately impacted thousands of users of the river.

More importantly, the Willamette River is dam controlled and swings 15-20 feet each year. Boating wakes are NOT causing erosion, our rainfall and snowpack are.

That said, the river is for all ages and sizes - my young children love to surf and wake board and arbitrary rules (ie max 5k pounds gross weight with ballast) should be removed as quickly as they were implemented without the consent of all users.

We look forward to a resolution that returns the access to all so that the biases of a few don't ruin the experience for all other users of this incredible natural resource in our backyard.

Thank you!