

Submitter: Jesse Pascoe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

I am a third generation towed watersports enthusiast. Waterskiing and other towed watersports have been a huge positive factor in my life, my parent's lives' and now my kids' lives. We have had a family dock on the upper Willamette for 20+ years. This dock, this stretch of river, and boating and has provided countless days of healthy family recreation. The extreme restrictions of SB 1589 had a huge negative impact on our families enjoyment of the river. It's horrible to look at my kids at tell them, " sorry, no we can't tow you on the tube. It's against the law now". " No, we can't tow the foil board, even though it causes no more wake than a waterski wake... because it's against the law now". We have a dock and so are acutely aware of the impact boat wakes can have on personal property. We are also very aware of the publics right to recreate and enjoy their time on the water doing a healthy activity . I have seen, that if towed watersports are done responsibly and a reasonable distance from docks and boats, they can be done safely for everyone. I strongly believe that the arguments made for SB 1589 were disingenuous, misleading, and have largely been de-bunked. The real reason for SB 1589's restrictions are that Bill Kennemer and his neighbors would like to keep the larger public away from their docks and not disturb their peaceful river. Rivers didn't just start eroding banks when wakeboarding boats were invented, they've been doing it for ever. I view this as an extreme abuse of power and an example of corruption. An elected official should not be able to use his position of power to keep families from towing their kids in front of his dock. If he doesn't like seeing families recreate on the river, then he should move, not close off the Willamette River to the public boating community. Please keep this wonderful stretch of river open for the public families like ours to enjoy, instead of imposing arbitrary restrictions to protect the opulent docks and boat houses of the ultra wealthy residents of the upper Willamette. Thank you