

Submitter: Mya Pottratz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

As a native Oregonian and a lover of water sports, I believe it's essential to highlight two key points when expressing my endorsement of this bill.

First, I would like to acknowledge what this bill would do for increased public access while preserving the environment. SB 1950 is crucial for enhancing public access to towed water sports along the Newberg Pool, benefiting numerous families in the region. By implementing carefully planned zones developed by the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) with input from various stakeholders such as small businesses, environmentalists, and homeowners, this bill ensures that these activities are conducted in designated areas. These zones serve a dual purpose of enhancing safety for river users and protecting the environment. By limiting towed water sports to suitable areas, SB 1950 promotes responsible recreation while preserving the natural integrity of the waterways. Secondly, to touch on the continuation of education as it relates to this bill. SB 1950 also upholds the Oregon State Marine Board's Newberg Pool Towed Watersports Education Program. This initiative plays a vital role in keeping boaters well-informed about the latest safety measures, effective wave management techniques and operator responsibilities. By continuing this program, SB 1950 ensures that boaters are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the waterways safely and responsibly. This proactive approach not only enhances the overall safety of towed water sports but also fosters a culture of responsible boating among enthusiasts, thereby mitigating potential risks and promoting a harmonious coexistence between recreation and conservation efforts. I hope that this is taken into account in support of this bill. Thank you!