

Submitter: Bryan McLean

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

Chair Golden, members of the committee my name is Bryan McLean and I am the co-owner of Northwest Boat Sports, a local small business. I strongly support SB 1590.

Northwest Boat Sports has proudly served the Willamette River community for more than a decade bringing the fun and excitement of watersports to thousands of Oregonians. Our services include boat sales, a full repair shop, accessory sales, boat storage and more. We employ 16 staff members supporting them with livable wage jobs, health insurance, dental insurance and matching 401k benefits.

In 2022, the Oregon State Legislature passed SB 1589, significantly limiting recreational boating in the Newberg Pool. The impacts of this law have been devastating to the Newberg Pool boating community and the businesses that depend on their support. SB 1589 revoked towed watersports permits from hundreds of local families, leading to significant declines in recreation.

SB 1589 also created challenges for countless small businesses along the Newberg Pool and their ability to provide good jobs for the community. Local boaters have already begun to sell their boats and foot traffic is significantly down at stores and accessories shops serving boaters, leading to sales declines more than 50% and millions in lost economic activity. Sadly, some families have even moved out of the area entirely due to the law.

SB 1590 is a step in the right direction towards supporting safe, reasonable and enforceable public access to the Newberg Pool and local businesses like mine. With reintroduced access to the area, boaters will commit to abiding by laws and education standards put forth by the Oregon State Marine Board.

Recreational boating brings significant social and economic value to our state, contributing \$2.3 billion in annual economic impact and supporting 8,838 jobs and 400 businesses including marinas, mechanics, convenience stores, dealers, and more. Additionally, powerboating is among Oregon's top 10 outdoor recreational activities. Oregonians spend more than 6.8 million activity days per year on the water cruising and participating in towed watersports. These activities provide valuable family time in our community along with promoting positive mental, emotional and physical health.

If you have any questions about recreational boating as you are navigating the

session don't hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you for representing our beautiful State and thank you for your consideration in supporting SB 1590. A friendly reminder SB 1589 passed in a short session and I urge you to continue the SB 1590 work session.

Best Regards,

Bryan McLean
Co-Owner
Northwest Boat Sports