

Submitter: Maria Hall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

I attended the hearing today. A couple of additional thoughts as a result. Many of the people who testified made it sound like the current law is anti-family, anti-business and that all wake boats are banned from the river. The current law is pretty clear and pretty limited. Only wake surfing is a prohibited activity. All the other sports- boating, skiing, tubing, wake boarding are all permitted. These activities are easier and safer to enjoy without surfing wakes. There is a weight limit of 5500 pounds, but this amount is almost 1000 pounds more than the average ski boat. There are plenty of boat sales which could take place with under 5500 pound boats. The local industry will have to adjust, or of course people can surf in other areas such as the lower Willamette and Columbia.

I noticed the bill proponents submitted the report from David Gorman, who essentially tries to say there was little or no erosion along the riverbanks, and he provided photos of our shoreline to support this. When I inspected the photos more closely, I saw that the river level was high, like from a dam release to bring cooler water for anadromous fish. This happens in late summer when the river temp gets high. The river in Gorman's photos covers up the majority of the bank that has been eroded, so the viewer doesn't realize what's happened. I took a photo of the same area a little earlier in the summer and the water level was several feet lower and you can see the undercut bank and all the exposed roots of the vegetation. There is no question the wakes cause erosion of the banks.