

Submitter: Jay Martens

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

I support Senate Bill 1590. I am a father and now a grandfather who boats in the Newberg Pool every summer and has for past 20 years. We need common sense rules and regulations for ALL boaters and not just rules that favor paddlers.

There is no real scientific proof that limiting towed water sports has any real affect on fish or erosion. If the towed water sports boats follow the previous rules of staying at least 200 feet from shore and structures, there should be minimal damage to structures or shorelines. By banning more and more areas of the public's waterways from use of towed watersports we are going to have too many boaters in the allowed zones and create dangerous congestion. The Marine Board already made the lower Willamette from the Falls to Hawthorne Bridge a paddle safe zone all but eliminating power boats, completely. The push by Willamette Riverkeeper and other paddle groups to take over the entire Willamette River as the sole users is absurd.

The rivers are public waterways to be shared by all boaters. We had rules in place to protect other boaters, homeowners, and wildlife that should be enforced. Training and education should be priorities. Make common sense rules that are easy to understand and encourage businesses and interest groups to come together and compromise.

Towed watersports are a wonderful family activity that gets everyone out in the fresh air and water together. It is multi-generational and inclusive. Don't let special interest groups dictate their rhetoric on everyone. The river is large, the fish are healthy, and the outdoors is wonderful for all of us to use.

The river from Willamette Park (Bernert Landing) to the Falls should not be included in any towed watersports restrictions like it was left out on the previous Marine Board regulations. The river on both sides is a shoreline of boulders and rip rap. The railroad on the East Side and the Mill and Municipal water treatment centers are not subject to any erosion concerns. The river is consistently 30 feet of depth or more so wave energy has more area to subside. If anything, this should be an off limits area to paddlers. They run the risk of inadvertently going over the falls if they approach too closely. The floating homes are protected by the 200 foot no wake rule already.

Please pass this common sense bill and return the Newberg Pool to its former glory. Homeowners that have boats also want to be able to legally use their investments.

Thank you,

Jay Martens and Family, Oregon City, Oregon