

Submitter: Gary Grieve

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

I have lived in the Newberg Pool of the Willamette River for more than 26 years. My property is on the waterfront with a permitted dock.

I am writing in opposition to SB1590 that would result in increased damage from large wake surfing boats in the Newberg Pool.

The size and frequency of large wakes produced by these heavy boats has done irreparable damage to the Willamette River and its environs. We got a reprieve last summer after the passage of SB1589 that limited the large boats on the river and banned wake surfing. It was amazing. We could go out in our ski boat on a weekend for the first time in years.

Turbidity was reduced and our dock was safe for my grandchildren to play on. We have seen more paddlers, pontoon boats, skiers and others on the river because it is once again safe to participate on the river and not have to fight the big wakes.

Since large wake boats started operating on the river in 2005, I have steadily lost shoreline along my bank. I have lost at least 35 feet along one section of my property and, about 10 feet in the area protected by my dock (which is in great shape and consists of old-growth logs that have been on the river for 60 years.)

In addition, the section of the river directly across from my property has no homes or development on it and has experienced severe slides and damage to its riverbanks. The same with Champoeg Park.

This is unacceptable. SB1589 has gone a long way to help protect habitat, shoreline and make the river much safer for everyone.

Operators of wake surfing and wake boarding boats frequently do not observe the current rules and create unsafe conditions for my family to enjoy the river and our property.

I am deeply concerned about the safety of those enjoying the river. This damaging behavior is endangering children, pets, small boats, kayakers, swimmers, fishing and other users of the river.

I support recreational uses of the river provided that those activities don't endanger others or harm the river. The Upper Willamette is simple too narrow, fragile, developed and congested to balance the needs of all users without some type of

wake control measures in place.

I urge you to leave well enough alone and not pass SB1590 which would bring back these and even more dangerous boats and harm the river. It will help protect safety, shoreline, property within the Willamette Greenway and ensure this treasured resource will continue for a wide range of recreation uses for generations to come.

Sincerely,  
Gary A. Grieve  
Wilsonville Oregon