

Submitter: Wen-Hsin Yip

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

Dear Lawmakers,

Current laws prohibiting wake board boats on the Willamette River force enthusiasts to seek distant waters, neglecting the potential advantages of localizing this sport. It's crucial to reassess these restrictions for several key reasons:

- **Economic Growth**: Allowing wake boarding on the Willamette can spur local economic activity by boosting demand for nearby businesses, including restaurants, boat dealerships, and maintenance services.
- **Accessibility**: The existing prohibitions make wake boarding an exclusive activity for those who can afford to travel. Repealing these laws would democratize access to this exhilarating sport, ensuring it's available to a broader community.
- **Environmental and Safety Measures**: With thoughtful regulation, the environmental and safety concerns associated with wake boarding can be addressed. Implementing designated wake boarding zones, enforcing speed limits, and adopting pollution control measures can ensure the Willamette River remains a safe and sustainable resource for all users.
- **Community Engagement**: Wake boarding could serve as a pillar for community interaction along the Willamette, offering residents new avenues to engage, connect, and take pride in their river.

In conclusion, the benefits of lifting restrictions on wake board boats on the Willamette River are manifold. It's time to rethink outdated laws to foster economic growth, enhance accessibility, ensure environmental and safety integrity, and strengthen community bonds. By opening the Willamette to wake boarding, we can embrace new opportunities for our local ecosystem and its people.