

Submitter: Erin Patterson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

Dear Committee Members,

I'd like to submit testimony in support of SB 1590 and the understanding that this bill will not move forward during this short session. The creation of SB 1589 was done unfortunately without a full understanding of parameters put in place, and has created unintended consequences that need to be corrected.

Going from 10,000 lbs boat limit to the present weight limit (combined factory dry weight and ballast) has no national standard which has posed significant challenges for consumers to determine if their boat is eligible and for the marine board to accurately enforce. Please note that eliminating a boat from its use on the Newberg Pool because it "could" have ballast, is not only unfair, it doesn't make sense if it's not used. This is akin to any after market add on to any vehicle.

Aside from the issue that this is how a majority of the towboats are made (an analysis from our local boat shops will tell you), SB 1589 was made to unfairly target towed water sports. **If wakes were the issue, why do I see so many types of boats going by that make wakes bigger than my boat does? In fact any size boat can go out and make any size wake, you just can't do a towed sport behind that boat. The previous legislative arguments pointed to objections over wakes, however, wakes weren't banned, only people enjoying towed sports.

Arguments were made, that were hypotheses and assumptions, yet, a study was conducted concluding that residential development is the leading source of human-caused erosion in the Newberg Pool, according to ecological restoration engineer David Gorman. Moreover, there is no empirical evidence or peer-reviewed study that links the current restrictions to having any positive effect on fish populations.

Creating restrictions based on assumptions and using arbitrary weight guides without a true understanding of what that means has devastated our water sports community in the Newberg Pool. SB 1590 corrects these oversights and assumptions. SB 1589 was a grave misstep that was aimed to ban towed water sports in the Newberg Pool, which has impacted not only local businesses, but so many families' enjoyment on the public river. I urge the Committee to consider correcting the unintentional consequences with SB 1590, and get families back on the river to enjoy water sports.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Erin Patterson