

Chair Golden,

Thank you for the opportunity to come and speak in front of your committee earlier this week. It's always interesting to be a part of that process.

After hearing all the various testimony, I wanted to clear up a few points:

- Many of the SB1590 opponents noted that 2022's SB1589 was a "compromise". It definitely was not. Two specific details show this; First, it added almost four miles to the Newberg Pool at the lower end that were never an issue and are perfect for wakeboarding and wakesurfing. Second, the language set the weight limit extremely low when the "maximum factory ballast" is included. Ballast can't even be used in the area, so why is it included in the total weight allowed?
- The regulations that were in place prior to SB1589 were working. They were put together by The Oregon State Marine Board over many years with work from groups on both sides of the issue.
- It's easy to say boat waves cause erosion and endanger fish. There is, of course, no proof they don't. The question should be to what degree? No matter how many times our opponents make the claim, there have been no studies that show a correlation between tow boat (vs any other boat) waves and erosion or loss of fish. Wakesurfing would be considered a "nuisance" sport by those who don't do it themselves and this is the easiest way to get the participants off the water.
- If, however, we could all agree that boat waves are the cause, why are all the same boats able to navigate the river? They can now, they just can't pull a rider behind the boat.
- If the Federal Fisheries really had an issue with recreational boating, they would let you know in a very straightforward way. I spoke with the author of the NOAA letter our opponents keep citing. His intent was not to remove wakesurfers from the river. Also, as you pointed out at the end of the meeting, if the Oregon DOJ was concerned about a lawsuit, they would let you know.
- Compared to the amount of Oregon waterways that are non-motorized specific, only a small portion are available for recreational boating
- Due to the weather, Wakesurfing in Oregon is already very restricted. It normally only takes places on sunny weekends and weeknights in the summer. If we break that down into actual hours, my estimation is that we are talking about less than 100 hours a year that wake surf boats are out in any kind of numbers.

One of the biggest problems with trying to settle this issue in the legislature is that no one there really understands the full scope of the situation, how best to serve all stakeholders, and how a decision here will affect other waterway areas.

I would be both willing and delighted if any legislators reached out to learn more about this. We would be happy to arrange for an on-water tour of the Newberg Pool.

I would hope this issue comes back up in the future. Please use me as a resource.

Respectfully,

Matt Radich