

Submitter: Isaac Gaba

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

My name is Isaac Gaba. I am 15 years old, live in Sherwood and I'm a sophomore at Sherwood HS. I am submitting this testimony because I'm asking you to support SB 1590. I started wakesurfing about 6 years ago. When I entered high school in 2022, I wanted to start a wakesurfing club after the pandemic as a way to get to know new people by doing something I love. We could only boat for another couple of months as the boating season was nearing its end, and I was really bummed when my dad said that we could no longer surf on the upper Willamette. We went to the lower Willamette in the downtown area, but it was super crowded and was not safe both in the water and on land. There were many inexperienced boaters driving rentals and unhealthy hazards like floating needles and feces. Right next to the parking lot where we had our truck and trailer parked, I went to use the restroom and there were drug materials in it. It was also very inconvenient because it was a long drive to make after school with all the traffic. With all of these negative factors taken into account, I gave up on the idea. Supporting SB1590 will allow us to surf back in the Newberg Pool surf zones and provide a safe area that all river users can enjoy their activities. Thank you for your consideration and I hope you support SB1590.