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On Behalf Of:

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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

I've been operating my 21' Mastercraft Prostar in The Newberg Pool for 10 years. When the prohibitive constraints on wakeboarding and wake surfing were first put in place several years ago, I pointed out the specious nature of the arguments put forth by those special interest groups who sought to significantly curtail recreational activity in The Newberg Pool. I will reiterate their claims and my rebuttal to them here:

THEY CLAIM the wake from recreational boats causes erosion of the river bank. This is laughable; a river, by definition, IS erosion. Furthermore anyone who lives near or on the river, or who observes its annual flow fluctuations knows that the wakes created by recreational boats during three months of summer use have an INSIGNIFICANT impact on the river bank when compared to the astronomical volumetric increase in flow during the winter months. The river volume swells to such a degree as to render this erosion argument inane.

THEY CLAIM wake surfing is unsafe (yet there are provisions for wakeboarding and waterskiing). Wake surfing is a sport wherein the participant is typically within 5 to 15 feet of the "tow" boat. This activity is done at a nominal boat speed of 11 MPH. The overall river "footprint" of the tow boat and its participants is the smallest of the following three sports: Wake surfing, Wakeboarding, Waterskiing. By comparison, the nominal tow distance and speed for wakeboarding are 50' to 75' and 22 MPH. The nominal distance and speed for waterskiing are 75' and 36 MPH. The increase in tow length and speed of these activities actually makes them LESS SAFE than wake surfing. Turn radius and required reaction time are both favorably affected by slower speed; turn radius decreases and the time to respond to a potential conflict increases.