

Submitter: Brandon Cresswell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

Oregon's waterways have always been a public space for recreation to be enjoyed by all Oregonians. Over recent years, a privileged few and a vocal minority of river users have systematically created restrictions that make our shared waterways less accessible, less safe, and less welcoming to all. All river users can agree to, abide by and share in the enforcement of common-sense rules that will keep all river users safe and respect and protect the investment of river-front property owners. However this legislation, as well as the many actions by committees in recent years have been a targeted use of our governing and waterway management bodies to achieve the personal goals of a few at the expense of the access enjoyment and recreation of many. My family and more recently our three small children have been boating on the Willamette River from the mouth of the Columbia to Newberg for 15 years. Each year we watch with sadness as our ability to create memories doing the sports we love are increasingly restricted, squeezed into smaller, more congested spaces, and made less accessible for our family and many others in the area. I can't say strongly enough--please oppose this bill and speak on behalf of ALL river users, ensuring Oregon's waterways are safe, accessible and enjoyed by all.