

Submitter: Jennifer Franklin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

The proposed bill will remove safe outdoor opportunities for hundreds of families along the Newberg Pool and impact local small businesses who depend on their support. We are safe, responsible boaters who have purchased numerous boats over 20+ years. The taxes from our boat purchases and boat registration fees contribute to the ongoing funding of Oregon's recreational areas and rivers. Further, they support many businesses in the water sports and tourism industry. Limiting access on who can use Oregon's waterways penalizes the boating community, but doesn't solve the larger environmental issue. There is broad agreement that the lack of native vegetation and homeowner mismanagement of native trees has caused the majority of erosion. Furthermore, natural occurrences such as last winter's storm have a greater impact on river health than boating. Wake sports largely take place in the summer, outside of key migratory or spawning months. Studies show that wake boats waves, when operated at least 200 feet from shore, do not carry enough energy to have a significant impact on most shorelines.

I'm concerned that the limitations on the Newberg pool will create more congestion on Oregon's other rivers, resulting in more safety issues. The answer is more education, and enforcement. Not limiting access and removing access for the broader population. The state has already struggled to enforce the extensive laws and rules we have, and the bill does not address how to deal with the worst offenders who make the river dangerous for everybody.