

Submitter: Todd Burkholder

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

Dear Senators and Representatives,

As a frequent river user, geographer, and naturalist I have witnessed first hand the effects of wake boats on the Willamette River. These take the form of such things as severe bank erosion, harassment of wildlife, and sometimes dangerous interactions with other river users (I've even seen older children and teenagers, not to mention adults, dumped from their kayaks or paddle boards). At a minimum, because these boats are loud and create large wakes, they impinge the rights of others to enjoy the river in their way. By contrast, a kayaker or birder, for example, do not infringe on the experience of other river users. Finally, I've also seen the effects that the large wakes created by these boats have on house boats and boat docks. If they haven't already, I assume these property owners will eventually sue someone for the damage to their properties.

Wake boats don't belong on the Willamette. There are plenty of large reservoirs in Oregon and Washington that can absorb this activity and the large waves it creates. Thus there's no need for wake boards to be on the Willamette.

Sincerely,
Todd Burkholder