

Submitter: Gregory Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

February 4, 2022

I am writing in support of SB1589 that will restrict the use of wakeboats on the Willamette River between the falls at Oregon City and the mouth of the Yamhill River. I live next to Willamette Park in West Linn and have observed erosion caused by heavier boats on the banks of the river close to my home. Although the Oregon Families for Boating would have the public and you believe that this legislation will bar many people from the opportunity to engage in towed watersports, this is not the case. Boats weighing less than 5,000 pounds pull the great majority of skiers and tubers. They do so by moving quickly, minimizing wave action as they plane over the surface of the water. Wakeboard boats do the opposite. They dig into the water to create the sizeable waves required by this sport.

Wakeboard boats are also much more expensive than conventional motorboats. The proportion of people capable of purchasing boats that can cost as much as \$455,000, slightly less than the average price of a home in Portland in December 2021, is small, but the damage done by those able to afford one of these marine behemoths is substantial given the distance needed to dissipate the waves they produce.

Wakeboats may be OK to use on large lakes or rivers, but the Willamette is not large. And it is used by many more citizens than those with the income required to buy a wakeboat. Please protect the river for them and for the wildlife that depend on this natural resource. Vote yes for SB1589.

Sincerely yours,

Gregory Smith
West Linn, OR