

Submitter: Deirdre Molander

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB 1589. Our state doesn't need more bans alienating people from family activities. Banning tow boats on the Willamette River should only be a last resort. It also makes zero sense to extend the Newburg Pool to include the length from the Tualatin River inlet to Willamette Falls. There are only a few houseboats very close to the Falls, no docks and no other homes. Very few boats are ever even on this stretch - I'd be glad to forward videos I took during peak hours of how few boats are ever there.

Residential development, not summer boat wakes, is the primary human-caused source of erosion. There is broad agreement that the lack of native vegetation and homeowner mismanagement of native trees has caused the majority of the erosion. Furthermore, natural occurrences such as last winter's storm have a much greater impact on river health than boating. Non-stop, high river levels 9+ months of the year do more erosion than 3-4 months of waterskiing, wakeboarding or wake surfing.

There is no empirical evidence or peer-reviewed study that links lowering the current boat weight limit or banning wake surfing to having any positive effect on fish populations in the Newburg Pool. Wake sports largely take place in the summer, outside of key migratory or spawning months. Scientific studies show that waves from wake boats, when operated at least 200 feet from shore, do not carry enough energy to have a significant impact on most shorelines.

Possible and Reasonable Alternatives:

1. Do not extend the Newburg Pool from Tualatin River inlet to Willamette Falls!
2. Zones for power or paddler only.
3. Odd/Even day usage to allow both paddlers and power boats water fun time.
4. Time restrictions when certain sports aren't allowed (i.e., wake surfing 12pm to 5pm M-F, 10am-3pm S/S, or some reasonable alternative).
5. Increase education requirements for all Willamette waterway users.
6. Increase registration fees for all users to allow for additional enforcement patrols.

PLEASE consider the alternatives!!! There are vastly more river/lake alternatives for non-motorized sports enthusiasts than just the Willamette River. Please don't take this wonderful waterway away from families!

I respectfully urge you to vote against this bill and all future bills like it.

Best Regards,

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