

Submitter: Diana Ayres

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

Dear Oregon Legislature:

I am writing you to oppose SB 1589. This legislation is born out of special interest agendas and is not representative of the community at large.

Our family has enjoyed this waterway for over 30 years (three generations). We have many family memories of tubing, skiing, wakeboarding, fishing, and surfing. Please do not take these healthy, family fun activities away from us.

Our waterway policies should be grounded in solid research and favor the general public, not select waterfront homeowners and paddlers looking to eliminate motorized boating for their own personal gain. Real studies should be conducted to determine the best ways to keep the river safe and healthy. Residential development, not boat wakes, is the primary human-caused source of erosion. There is no empirical evidence or peer-reviewed study that links the proposed restrictions to having any positive effect on fish populations. Furthermore, the Newberg Pool is already one of the most regulated bodies of water in Oregon, and wake surfing is only allowed in two small zones with no adjacent homes.

This bill will make our waterways less safe and negatively impact Oregon families and small businesses. This bill not only exacerbates safety issues, but it also fails to solve a primary issue – enforcement. Subjecting only towed water sports enthusiasts to a weight limit is overtly biased. The House already extensively debated this bill and did not move forward. I respectfully urge you to do the same. Oregon needs our senators focused on COVID, economic recovery and education. Please do not waste time on this unnecessary legislation. The Newberg Pool should be safely shared. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diana & Bill Ayres