

Submitter: Roger Kofler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

As navigable waterways go, the Willamette River is not very wide. This fact is important because boat wakes, whether incidental to boat operation or purposely generated for the purpose of "wake sports" do not dissipate in time to avoid effecting every other user of that part of the river, including fish. SB1589 would regulate the weight of boats especially designed to produce as large a wake as possible. As these boats get larger and larger, so do the wakes generated. These artificial waves can be very dangerous to other users of the river, and damaging to the fish runs we spend millions of dollars to support. Placing a weight limit of five thousand pounds on wake boats would help to control the size of these wakes.

Every year more and more people discover the Willamette River as a place to exercise, fish, cool off or simply get out on the water. The relatively small number of people who engage in wake sports should not be able to control the condition of the river for all other users.

Please pass SB1589 so that more people can safely enjoy the Willamette River.