

Submitter: Susan Donnelly

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

I encourage you to support SB1589 which will limit the weight of boats on the Willamette River to under 5000 pounds if conducting towed water sports. There are several reasons it is imperative you support this action.

1) The large artificial waves generated by large, heavy watercraft that speed through the water in order to have the power to tow people who are skiing or participating in other towed recreation, damage private and public property (docks, beaches, bulkheads, foundations,). They cause unnecessary erosion that over time creates irreparable harm to both human made and natural features along the river.

2) This bill would reduce the size of human-generated waves that impact all other river users: canoes, fishermen, SUP paddlers, kayakers, other power boaters, and families enjoying the shoreline areas. The large waves created by speeding, heavy power boats conducting towed water sports present dangers to all other river users.

3) The large waves created by power boats of unrestricted weight conducting towed water sports damage shoreline and river bottom habitat used by wildlife, including, but not limited to, spring Chinook and winter Steelhead. It is imperative that we protect these important natural areas.

4) One recent study by the University of Minnesota recommends that wake boats conducting towed water sports be restricted to areas located more than 500 feet from shorelines and docks. Almost all of the Willamette River does not have the width to accommodate that. Our rivers are just too narrow for unrestricted towed water sports.

So I implore you. Pass SB1589.

Thank you, Susan Donnelly