

My name is Chris Forsberg and I oppose SB 1589.

I live in a home on the Willamette river in Wilsonville and have boated on this river for many years. I am also an avid outdoorsman and will take every effort possible to preserve Oregon's habitat.

I am disappointed to see the efforts of special interest groups working to create a private water way for personal use through SB 1589. This is now the third attempt at passing overly restrictive legislation. It is without question the bill lacks sufficient scientific data, the exaggerated claims of bank erosion are solely based on theory or opinion, let me repeat that to be clear, there is absolutely no scientific data that proves bank erosion is caused by towed water sports. The towed water sports community is willing to collaborate on impact studies and actions to preserve our waterway for years to come. I implore this legislative body to support a collaborative study based on science to lead us to the appropriate actions, not a selfish attempt to make a public waterway private by passing SB 1589

This bill an opinion based reaction to a problem that is not clearly defined, if this is an issue on driven by increased human development on or near the river banks, let's please deal with the real root cause. I as much as anyone want to protect our rivers banks, but taking action without a clear root cause will not solve anything. Solutions are only aimed at creating a private water way for very few. This bill will eliminate water recreation for thousands of Oregon families, it will have significant negative impact on Oregon businesses, that are desperately trying to recover from the impact of a pandemic, it creates significant safety issues for boaters, I implore this legislative body to vote no on SB 1589.

Now is not a time to impose further unwarranted restrictions on Oregonians as we begin to recover to normalcy post pandemic.