

Submitter: Ryan Allen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

Hello, I write this letter to you today, in opposition of Bill 1589. I owned riverfront property in 2020, right off interstate 5. I was overwhelmingly surprised at how respectful boat operators were, throughout the entire Newbury pool stretch. Our Boat slip was near a "Slow/no wake zone", and we had no issues in regards to boaters operating dangerously, or defying river rules and regulations. We have a very special landscape and part of what makes Wilsonville/canby/Oregon city what it is, is the river and its access to ample outdoor activities. I understand environmentalists want to conserve and protect our natural landscape here in Oregon, and I am happy we have a body of people who value that. But the argument that fish and wildlife are negatively impacted (to the point of serious neglect) is false. Wake sports largely take place in the summer, outside of key migratory or spawning months. Studies show that wake boats waves, when operated at least 200 feet from shore, do not carry enough energy to have a significant impact on most shorelines. Another claim being made is the erosion conversation. the lack of native vegetation and homeowner mismanagement of native trees has caused the majority of erosion. Furthermore, natural occurrences such as last winter's storm have a greater impact on river health than boating.

To be honest, I witnessed countless boaters, spending time with family, during a Covid pandemic, that was keeping people healthy, active, and creating a good sense of community. The river is a beautiful place, and yes we do need to take care of it, but we need to realize that we are fortunate and lucky to be able to have a natural resource that allows many different people, to enjoy the outdoors. That's what Oregon is known for, outdoor activities and living. If we saw clear and substantial evidence, that active sports boating along the upper willamette river was causing serious harm, I would definitely change my stance. But i saw a boating community that shares, respects, and values their local river, and ultimately followed rules, which allowed everyone to boat together, while being safe. To me voting safety is more of a top priority, and when the river was busy, it was actually impressive to see how well everyone operated during busy days. In closing, I do believe we are lucky to have a body of water, that allows our community to be outdoors, active, and involved with their community. This portion of the river is already the most regulated area along the river... the rules are clear, well defined, and about as good as they can be. I appose bill 1589, and I appreciate you taking the time to hear my opinions. Thank you.

-Ryan Allen