

Chair Lieber and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to oppose Senate Bill 1589.

My name is Matt Radich and I am the President of Active Water Sports. We are a local small business employing 36 Oregonians and we have been serving the Willamette boating community for over 40 years.

In addition to Oregon small businesses, I am also representing Oregon Families for Boating, a grassroots community founded by local families and dedicated to ensuring boating opportunities are accessible to all Oregonians.

Our ask is simple - We want to safely share the Newberg Pool with all users. The best way to achieve this is with better education and the enforcement of the existing rules.

Did you know that the Newberg pool is currently the most regulated body of water in Oregon? Of the thirty miles of river in the Newberg Pool, wakesurfing, which all of this is about, can only take place on less than three miles of the pool.

When considering what to do here, it is important you know that there are no studies or data that show banning wakesurfing or limiting boats to 5000lbs will lead to any positive effects on fish populations or bank erosion issues.

Furthermore, if wake surfing was significantly impacting fish populations, data would show a decline as the sport has increased in popularity. In fact, the 2021 Willamette Falls fish passage data shows that total counts have remained steady compared to the 10-year average and actually experienced an upswing over the last two years.

I have been involved in this issue for many years, and each time I have spoken at one of these hearings or one-on-one with stakeholders, I have pledged that we want to work together to come up with co-operative solutions. It is unfortunate that this has yet to happen.

At a recent Town Hall meeting I heard Senator Wagner state that during this legislative session "Equity will be in the center of the decision-making process". Please make sure this happens.

I am asking you to support Oregon families and small businesses by voting No on this legislation. This is not the answer.