

Submitter: Susanna Farahat

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

I love to paddle my kayak on the Willamette River, and take walks along the shore. I am writing to express my support for SB 1589, because--even more than my recreational enjoyment of and connection with the River--I value our fish and wildlife. Wake boats disturb habitat at the shoreline and on the river bottom, threatening our already highly impacted fish and wildlife, such as spring Chinook and winter steelhead. The Willamette has already suffered so much, from long term contamination. We need to be actively repairing our relationship with the river, and starting to reduce the impact of heavy wake boats is one step we can take today. The big, un-natural waves produced by large wake boats also impact the experiences of those who wish to interact safely and peacefully with the river. Waves can be disruptive and threaten the safety of paddlers and smaller boat users, and cause harm to houseboats as well. Our river just isn't wide enough to safely support larger wake boats. Thank you for hearing my testimony. Please pass SB 1589.