

Submitter: Lynn Sosa

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

In support of SB1589.

Wake boats have been around for many years.

Back in 2010, "wake enhancing devices" were banned in the Newberg Pool. Why? Because it was clear that the big wakes were causing damage to shoreline and docks.

It was hard to enforce because law officers couldn't really tell if a boat had these devices unless they boarded the vessel, not very practical.

But the point is, they were absolutely banned until 2019, when the Oregon State Marine Board removed the ban, against much opposition.

The wake boat industry claimed it as "a big win for us". Most of the people who say that they won't be able to use the boat they own, bought that boat when it was illegal to use them in the Newberg Pool, they just knew they wouldn't get ticketed. Unless all the 500 boats with certificates were purchased in the last two years, which of course is not true.

Then legislature passed a law to limit the weight of boats in the Newberg Pool, entrusting the Marine Board to choose the weight limit. The same Marine Board that lifted the ban on wake enhancing devices. Not hard to understand why the Board then choose a ridiculously high weight of 10,000 pounds.

This SB1589 sets the weight at the original legislative intent, sadly because the Marine Board didn't follow the intent of the Bill.

Let's get this right once and for all.

Passing this SB1589 will do that.