Submitter: Randy Harris

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

My name is Randy Harris and I am a riverfront homeowner on Butteville Road, within the "Newberg Pool". I am opposed to SB 1589 for a variety of reasons. Before stating a handful of those reasons, I think it's fair to share some details about the Newberg pool that may not be understood to those that haven't experienced this waterway. 90% (the mass majority) of the time in the peak of summer, there is very little traffic on this body of water! I work from home and on a beautiful July or August afternoon I will often span several hours without ever seeing a boat pass by my house. I live almost exactly in between the Newberg public launch ramp (Rogers Landing) and the Boones Ferry launch ramp at the I-5 bridge; I'm in the middle of the area in question! Many people in support of this bill would try to "paint the picture" that the river is a highly congested waterway that people are putting their lives at risk every time they get in a boat or walk onto their dock! The first line of Senator Kennemer's SB 1589 refers to the specific area affected as the "Newberg Pool Congested Zone". The first line of this bill is a gross exageration of the "natural state" of the river and what every day life looks like here. I have never understood the motivation behind creating these bills over the past years, but please do know this;

1) The Oregon State Marine Board has invested years of research effort, energy, tax payer resources and money into creating rules and regulations to address stated concerns. I personally participated in an OSMB advisory board on this topic 5 years ago and there have been additional advisory boards since. Regardless of all these efforts; since the outcome of the OSMB's findings don't meet the "demands" of those opposed to wake sports, the results of all this effort will be tossed aside and pursued through legislative action instead? I would ask you to please give this proper consideration.

2) The zones that have been established by the OSMB restrict wake surfing to (2) short zones within a 30 mile stretch of the river; specifically selected because there are NO DOCKS and NO RIVERFRONT HOMES within these zones. People stating that these boats are damaging their docks, do not have these water sports happening in front of their homes now and haven't for years. Another statement shared by those in support of this bill is that these wake sports are making it unsafe for paddle boarders and kayakers; which under the current rules enjoy use of 90% of the river to participate at their leisure. There are residents that live on the river that are driving 10-15 miles round trip to wake surf because they can't do this on the stretch of river in front of their homes, and they're making that drive! It is the exception to see someone performing these wake sports outside of the designated areas.

3) We are told by Senator Kennemer in his 2/9/2022 introduction that "No boats will be banned"; I believe he then repeated this statement. Then a moment later he

stated that "merely 30 boats moored in the Newberg pool were identified as over 5000 lbs will be impacted". Are we to believe that in a 3-4 month boating season; ALL of the bank erotion along a 30 mile stretch of the Willamette river is directly related to 30 boats that are wake surfing in (2) separate 1.5 mile designated zones? How many times a year does the average boater get to use their boat? This is the justification for this being an "emergency measure"?

4) You may also find it interesting to know that SB 1589 does not prevent these same 5,000+ lb boats from loading up and pulling a tube, or knee board, or skier up and down the full length of the Newberg pool. The Towed Water Sports certificate is only required to those boats that are participating in wake surfing and wake boarding.

I respectfully request that you put an end to this request for further restrictions on the Newberg pool and the tax paying citizens of our great state and vote NO to SB 1589.