

Submitter: Maria Hall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

I already submitted testimony on Tuesday which included a lot of detail including photos and a video of boat wakes the shoreline at our farm in Newberg. I don't want to repeat everything here, but after catching about half of the verbal testimony yesterday, I could see that some issues needed clarification. The wake boat industry is very good at getting its base to testify. This had been the situation all along with legislation and bills which seemingly threatens the industry. After all, those wake boats cost \$150,00-\$200,000. A lot of testimony played on how wake surfing was the only outlet for people during the pandemic and how it brought families together, etc., and that this bill would eliminate those opportunities. That's really misleading. Yes, wake SURFING in this area would be prohibited. That is because surf wakes have been shown to be by far the most powerful and damaging to the shoreline. All other boating is allowed. The 5,000 pound limit FOR TOWED WATERSPORTS, (unlimited weight when not towing), is extremely reasonable. It is the rare recreational boat that would exceed that weight. Those who only desire to wake surf must go elsewhere, but there are many other places. These boaters made it sound like bill proponents are being selfish and discriminatory. The opposite is in fact the case. Just because you have a huge expensive boat for wake surfing does not entitle you to damage a public resource like the Willamette River. The wake surfers are in fact being selfish by stating is it their right to damage the river. The well documented, peer reviewed studies make it clear surfing wakes are by far the worst for the environment. The wake boat folks said there is no proof that wakes cause erosion. That was really hard to listen to. Many of us have submitted evidence of wakes hitting shores and actively undercutting the banks. Where the water was clear prior to the wake hitting the shore, the water became brown with silt. Even without scientific studies, this cause and effect is obvious.

There is a reason why dozens of states are considering or have implemented laws and regulations about wakes. This is a national problem and it keeps getting worse with the ever increasing size of these boats.

I would think your duty as legislators is to represent the people of this state and its natural resources, not a select group of boaters who seem indifferent to the environmental damage they cause in the name of personal fun.

Thank you.