

Submitter: Kathleen Patterson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

I was not able to submit my testimony on the site listed. Please submit my written testimony in support of SB 1589 - the bill to limit the weight of boats on our rivers to under 5000 pounds if one is conducting Towed Water Sports. Decreasing the weight will reduce the size of artificial waves particularly on our beloved Willamette River.

I have lived in Salem, OR all my life and frequently go kayaking on the Willamette River. However, the huge waves generated by the WAKE SURFING boats is ruining the river for kayakers and paddle boarders. The waves are so large especially in narrow parts of the river that kayakers boats can be overturned and knock paddle boarders off their stand-up paddle boards. Water skiers pulled behind boats are fine, but the larger waves generated by WAKE SURFING boats jeopardize the safety of swimmers, kayakers and paddle boarders.

Another problem is the loud ear-splitting music blared from primarily WAKE SURFING boats affecting all the folks who have homes along the river and the recreational users of the river.

Thirdly, the large waves generated by WAKE SURFING boats affects threatened and endangered fish species and wildlife like river otters. The huge waves can kill juvenile protected salmon and steelhead and they wash up dead along the banks of the river. The huge waves are unnatural and cause bank erosion on particularly the lower stretches of the Willamette. The sensitive shorelines and the juvenile fish species did not evolve with ocean-like conditions on the Willamette caused by WAKE SURFING boats.

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Patterson  
Salem, OR