

Submitter: Heather Cormack

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

I am writing this to express my opposition to bill SB 1589. This bill is so bias and it will limit safe, socially distanced outdoor opportunities for hundreds of families along the Newberg Pool. There are so many other contributing factors (other than towed watersports) such as residential development, residential mismanagement of their shorelines and probably the biggest (and uncontrollably) factors are winter storms and annual rising and descending river water. There is no factual and unbiased data to prove that boating is the actual root cause of erosion. There is also no empirical evidence that links the proposed restrictions to having any positive effect on fish populations. There are already too many regulations on long stretches of the Willamette River (both upper and lower) that drastically reduce the activities that can be done. This bill is very overtly biased because it only affects towed watersports boats over 5,000 lbs. Most towed water sports boats these days exceed that. Which makes them an easy target for the people that are proposing this bill. Other types and sizes of boats can produce a similar (if not even larger) wake as a towed watersports boat. A larger cabin cruiser boat can produce a wake just as large (and even larger) as any wake surfing boat can, and they will still be able to operate freely under this proposed legislation. This is just a calculated attack on towed watersports by those who just want the river to themselves (non-motorized boaters and paddlers). They know that they cannot go after all motorized boats because they would never be able to pull that much support, but they think they can get enough support to attack the easily targeted 5,000 lbs.+ towed watersports boats. In my opinion way more resources should be put towards more enforcement and policing of the river, so that we can all coexist on the river together. In the past we have used the Willamette River regularly in the summer (before most of the river was locked down) and we did not see near enough police presence. In closing, the river is a public place that must be accessible and usable by every law-abiding citizen, and we cannot allow this to be limited. Thank you for the time to express my opinions regarding this matter.