

Submitter: Aaron Fellis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

I am Aaron Fellis. A resident of Lake Oswego, who like many interested and concerned about this bill i both live along the river and am an avid boater and am on the Willamette regularly.

I am opposed to SB 1589.

As stated in my verbal testimony I ask and beg that you openly consider and listen to those opposed to this legislation. We are much fewer in numbers and organization than so many of those who are proponents of this legislation.. As boaters and individuals we don't have near the level of unprecedented access to influence or bias the outcome of this bill as some of your peers in the senate whom are champions of this proposal.

We should pass laws that are inclusive of all Oregonians. Boaters and tow sports enthusiasts love and respect the Willamette and all Oregon waterways as much as anyone. As a whole we will do anything to keep it enjoyable for all, but in no way can idly stand by and see us targeted to be restricted from being on it.

We should have comprehensive and inclusive solutions to the suggested problems. We should not impose a law banning a specific group simply based upon childhood memories, qualitative assessments, out of context photos, or professorial opinions unsubstantiated by any actual study or data. Let's study the problem and put in specific solutions for that first. What goes unsaid is that the supporters of this bill are using the guise of shore erosion and wildlife to simply go after and ban something they don't appreciate, which is recreational boaters.

This bill would put such draconian restrictions on nearly 300 miles of river where there are so many different variables and a number of regulations already in place. The "10th Street Park" area just above The Falls is probably the most popular boating and surfing spot on the Willamette and it too would fall under this ban.

Recreational boaters are only on the river 4-5 months a year, and only in any appreciable numbers 1-2 days a week. In no way can they be the primary reason for the described problems for such a vast river that flows tens of thousands of gallons of water per minute. There are so many other likely scenarios that are probably bigger contributing factors - global warming, drier climates, rising tides (which do affect river levels), fires and the associated debris(fallen trees and such) that gets into the rivers and subsequently leads to mudslides and such that also go into the rivers, more

people/houses/industry along the river. Fish populations have actually recovered - and are more impacted by associated dams or industry on the river ( have you seen all of the abandoned and dilapidated industrial buildings at the Willamette falls), pollution, and climate change - there is no way a few boats a year are a menace for fish, sea lions and eagles are a bigger threat.

Senator Kennerman jokes about Lamborghinis on the roadway, but we don't ban them...we make our roadways inclusive for all - sports cars, electric cars, trucks, delivery vehicles, subarus, motorcycles, bicycles, pedestrians, etc. Similarly the boat industry does have advertisements that "brag or embellish" the waves their boats make, but Skittles candy also claims it rains skittles, shoe companies claim they can make you run faster, food products claim they can make you skinny or smarter, etc...

It's so clear to the boating community realize that while this bill talks about shore and wildlife, it is really about anti-boating, or "don't boat near my house". Thus why this is so divisive and polarizing amongst so many residents of Oregon. All whom equally love and enjoy the Willamette, but sadly some want to enjoy it more by banning the boaters.

Oregon has so many more important and real problems that really deserve the full attention of our law makers and law enforcement. Please let all families continue to enjoy the Willamette and fund some studies that better quantify whether there is a problem and have a more precise solution.

Thank you!  
Aaron