

Submitter: Carol Sarnowski

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

Please oppose SB 1589

This bill fails to address the primary causes of declines in salmon and steelhead abundance in the Willamette Basin. According to the National Marine Fisheries Service latest report degraded habitat conditions due to land use and development activities, predation, hatchery practices, and dam passage - not boat wakes - are the primary concerns.

The Newberg Pool is already one of the most regulated bodies of water in Oregon. Wake surfers are subject to a weight limit, required to obtain a special safety certification and only allowed in two small zones with no adjacent homes or docks..

Subjecting only towed water sports enthusiasts to a weight limit is overtly biased. A 5,000-pound fishing boat can produce a similar wake to the same size tow boat. Furthermore a 15,000 cabin cruiser that produces a wake far greater than any wake surfing boat can still operate freely under this legislation.

This bill exacerbates safety issues, and fails to solve a primary issue – enforcement. The state already struggles to enforce the laws and rules we have, and the bills do not address how to deal with the worst offenders who make the river dangerous for everybody.

I strongly oppose SB 1589 and instead support increased education and enforcement of existing boating regulations, combined with investments in site-specific research and bank management.

Please support Oregon families and small businesses by opposing SB 1589.

Carol Sarnowski  
Lake Oswego