

Submitter: Jeremy Monroe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

I support SB 1589.

Oregon is has plenty of reservoirs that offer opportunities for towed watersports, especially the large wave-making watercraft used for wake boarding/surfing.

Oregon's rivers - especially the Willamette - are NOT an appropriate place for this activity.

This relatively new watersport is overly 'consumptive' has many harmful side effects for river users, including:

- the erosion of riverbanks in their most vulnerable place (at the Summer low flow level that undermines the bank above, creating sloughing and calving of streambank)

- the siltation of water through heavy wave action, in the Summer season where we expect and enjoy some of our highest water quality

- the nutrient loading of water through churning of nutrient-laden sediments, contributing to harmful algae blooms that can be toxic (and toxic sediments in some areas)

- the destruction of nearshore aquatic habitat that should offer a calmer refugia for recently hatched fish, and an productive habitat for invertebrates that drive river food webs

- the dangerous large and unexpected waves that can put smaller craft canoeists, kayakers, paddleboarders, anglers, and swimmers in danger

- noisy, fast watercraft that present challenges to other users

Let's do the right thing for the Willamette River.

Jeremy Monroe  
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