

Submitter: Greg Waters

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

I am writing you to oppose SB 1589. This legislation is not representative of the community at large.

My name is Greg Waters. I live at 26000 NE Butteville Rd. Aurora, OR 97002 . I am an avid boater on the Upper Wilamette River and have been since I moved here in 1996. I purchased a house 5 doors down from the Boonesferry Marina and I rent a slip every year at the Marina. We were waiting a long time for something in that area to become available because of how much time we spend on the river. I grew up living on the water and it's the environment I want my daughter to grow up in. She is out there wakeboarding, wakesurfing fishing, kayaking and paddle boarding all summer long. These Bills would have a major impact on how we recreate and spend time with our family

These Bills would have a major impact on how I provide income for my family. I sell and service the boats that are being targeted . Not only would it effect my families income but it would also impact my 20+ Co Workers and their families income along with all the businesses and manufactures that we do business with

As far as erosion. I see pics out there with a little brown water coming off the sides of the river when boat traffic is heavy Wich there are only about 16 days a year when traffic is really busy on the hottest days. I am on the river a lot since it's my job, for the majority of the year the river doesn't get much boat traffic. October to March the Boonesferry marina is almost impossible to launch a boat because the current is so fast.

In these times the whole river is brown and swelling current is high and massive trees are going down the river and this is happening without any boats on the water. We can see the extra mud every year after the water goes down. That impact does not happen in the summer months.

Our waterway policies should be grounded in solid research and favor the general public, not select waterfront homeowners and paddlers looking to restrict towed water sports for their own personal gain. Real studies should be conducted to determine the best ways to keep the river safe and healthy. Local government agencies, hydrologists, geotechnical and civil engineers, ecologists and arborists all agree the lack of native vegetation and mismanagement of native trees is causing the majority of the erosion on the river, not towed water sports. Furthermore, the Newberg Pool is already one of the most regulated bodies of water in Oregon, and wake surfing is only allowed in two small zones with no adjacent homes.

This bill will make our waterways less safe and devastate families and small businesses in Aurora, Canby, Newberg, West Linn, Wilsonville and more. This is a duplicate bill that was already extensively debated and did not move forward. Please do not waste time on this unnecessary legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

GREG WATERS