

Submitter: William Gehr
On Behalf Of: Lower Columbia Canoe Club
Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources
Measure: SB1589

I am the Conservation Chair of the Lower Columbia Canoe Club. We are a paddling club in the Portland area whose members paddle kayaks and canoes on flat water and white water. We have paddling events on the Newberg Pool section of the Willamette. The presence of wake surfing boats has completely altered both the physical environment as well as the character of this section of the river. Over the past 20 years we have observed the significant bank erosion caused by these boats. The number of all power boats has increased appreciably, with proportionately more wake boats as time passes. The natural river environment is being assaulted and this bill is a small step in helping to limit the damage. Please pass SB1589 to help protect the vulnerable shoreline and the birds, fish, and other life that it supports. Thank you.