

Submitter: Samuel Keeran

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: SB1589

My name is Sam Keeran and I'm contacting you on behalf of Oregon Families for Boating.

The Oregon Senate is currently considering SB 1589, a new ban on towed water sports in the Newberg Pool on the Willamette River, which would ban wakesurfing outright and limit all other towed water sports including skiing, tubing, and wakeboarding.

As wake boat owners we have had to jump through hoops and keep up with rules changing every single year. This includes extra fees, classes, tests, and time spent preparing. Meanwhile all other types of boats are not expected to know the recreational rules set forth and nothing is enforced. Now after continually trying to comply it could be banned altogether rendering the Willamette river useless to certain boat owners. This would be a huge slap in the face and result in a loss of money that we have spent towards registrations/fees/licenses specific to this issue. Not to mention we would need to sell our boat to a deflated market due to the rules.

The Newberg Pool is already one of the most regulated bodies of water in Oregon and SB 1589 will not address erosion. Multiple studies have confirmed that residential development and wind- driven waves are the primary cause of erosion- not summer boat wakes.

My family and I are avid boaters and have been boating in the Newberg Pool for 10 years, and I strongly oppose this legislation and urge the Senate to vote down this bill so that the Newberg Pool may remain safely shared by all water enthusiasts.

Thank you for your time and consideration