

February 22, 2022

I support SB1589 with qualifications. I am in favor of boating activities but would like to see regulations which place limits on the size/energy of boat wakes along the Newberg Pool section of the Willamette River.

I live along the Willamette River in the Newberg Pool section and I have seen the effects large boat wakes can have by damaging property and the environment. I have experienced damage to my dock from the energy of a boat's wake and seen the erosion along the embankment.

While I think this bill is poorly written, I do see the 5000 pound limit as helping to reduce the damage from boat wakes. I do see people with boats under the 5000 pound limit enjoying wakeboard and wake surf activities. While the larger boat wakes caused by the heavier boats designed for wake sport activities may make these sports more challenging and fun, I don't think it is being responsible to the environment. The specialized boats use upwards of 15 gallons of fuel per hour for the wakesport activities and create high energy waves which do cause property damage and waste energy. This doesn't sound like a good idea for a state which promotes a Green Agenda for saving the planet.

I do not believe a majority of Oregon boaters and a majority of Oregon citizens think engaging in wake sports is a good idea for the river, the ecology, or the environment. Just because someone can afford to spend \$200,000 for a wakesport boat (2022 pricing) doesn't give them the right to damage public or private property. People buy expensive, high performance vehicles but we have not changed the speed limit to allow them to legally drive faster.

Presentations by the Oregon State Marine Board tell me we have about 180,000 registered boats in Oregon and about 500 wakesport class boats using the Newberg Pool. These boats engaging in wake surfing and wakeboarding become the bullies of the river because they create

wakes which take a long time to settle and make it difficult to enjoy other water activities such as fishing, waterskiing, paddle sports, and cruising.

If the State of Oregon feels such a small number of river users should be able to claim it is their right to do as they please, why not create a space for them and put in place the protections for the environment and property. At present, the river users are being allowed to induce damage which impacts the private homeowners along the river and the public at large.

I am not opposed to people wanting to engage in wake sport activities but I do think limits need to be set on boat wake energy. For the wake sport activities, the high energy boat wakes are created by consuming large quantities of gasoline to drive a wedge through the water. Who thinks that is a good idea for Oregon's rivers and lakes? The Newberg Pool section of the river is not wide enough for the energy to dissipate before reaching the river embankment.

**Regards,
Dale Mack
Aurora, OR**