

Opposed to SB 1590

To: Natural Resources and Wildfire Committee
From: John Weigant, 18989 NE Marine Dr Slip 15, Portland, OR 97230
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Subj: Stop SB 1590

Qualifications to testify: I live on a Gresham floating home, so am personally exposed to wakes of every degree. I'm an environmentalist, climate activist, futurist and Navy vet. I've taught physics and been a bureaucrat. I understand how things work, both in nature and in politics.

SB 1590 reflects basic conflict between a few people who feel their recreation rights have been curtailed and protection of a community (the Newberg Pool) and the whole world. Its focus is narrow but its impact and threat are wide. Short legislative sessions should address immediate problems with wider impact. This bill should not be taking your time. Please table it.

Basic Physics shows the impact of this bill in broader context:

1. Mass, Energy and Momentum are conserved. Wake boarding simply converts fossil energy into wave energy, to build a hill of water high enough to surf down. It benefits only a couple of people at a time, but its costs are world-wide, even increasing wildfire likelihood.
2. Water waves carry energy efficiently. Japanese tsunamis cross oceans to reach our coast. A swimming duck's wake in front of my house doesn't fade for 100 feet. Compare a duck's horsepower to that of a wake boat, to guess at the energy that erodes shorelines and damages structures never designed to survive such energy.
3. The fossil energy used by boats and other recreational vehicles produce CO₂, warming Earth. It's inconsistent to encourage zero-emission energy on land but not on water.
4. This wake boat policy is the *only* OSMB policy that discourages fossil fuel use. It only regulates that usage because of its high environmental damage, not climate change
5. Wake boat operators are generally unaware of the damage they cause. They must keep a lookout *ahead*, to avoid collision with other boaters, debris, shorelines and structures. They do this, but attention ahead limits attention *behind*. Skier/surfer observers focus immediately behind. Distant impacts may never be seen. More training hardly matters.
6. Waves superimpose. Straight-line motion produces predictable straight wave fronts. A maneuvering boat, more interesting for wave-riders, makes waves that can intersect with each other, producing huge and unpredictable "perfect" waves that may capsize small boats.
7. Climate Change demands less fossil fuel use. Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-04 required most state agencies to cut fossil fuel use, but no recreational bodies like OSMB were named. In fact, OSMB policies did the opposite, taxing human-powered boaters with a "Water Access Permit" that clearly violates the Congressional Act of 1859 Admitting Oregon to the Union: "The navigable rivers of the State shall be common highways, forever free..." OSMB should encourage more sailing. SB 1590 defeats an OSMB rule that acts to cut climate change, even if its intent was environmental protection. The repeals in SB 1590 invite more climate change, more destruction, and more conflict with safer boaters. Fossil fuel is itself a natural resource that shouldn't be squandered to damage other parts of Nature.
8. SB 1590 is a selfish bill that hurts everyone in the long term. Don't help a few people enjoy high-cost, high-damage recreation at the expense of everyone else. Please Kill it.