

Submitter: Pat Kabula

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

Dear Chair Golden and Committee Members,

I feel strongly that you should oppose SB 1590, introduced by Senator Mark Meek. At the end of the day, this bill affects the ecology and all other users of the river than wake boats.

This bill undermines protections that guard against artificial waves on the Willamette River. Wake boats are built to generate artificial waves on inland waters. These artificial waves impact the river's fragile ecology in the nearshore areas of the river. Eliminating the 5,500 lb weight restriction will unleash significant impacts to these nearshore areas.

The websites of the various wake boat manufacturers boast about wave size and height - all so that those who purchase these expensive machines can "surf" on inland waters, instead of surfing at a natural beach.

The nearshore areas are, in essence, the nurseries of the river. Here one can find juvenile Spring Chinook salmon in the spring and summer, utilizing the very areas where these artificial waves have their biggest impact. A range of other species utilize the nearshore habitat, and can be significantly affected by artificial waves from wake boats.

Oregon demonstrated real leadership when it passed a law to institute the weight limit and related certification program in Oregon. It should not flip back now!

Wake boats affect everyone else on the river when they are used. Their 4ft waves slam into kayakers, swimmers, the shoreline, the fragile nearshore habitat, private docks, other power boats and more. Such waves are absolutely not natural to the Willamette River.

Since the common sense law was passed just a few years ago, there have been far more SUPs, canoes, kayaks, swimmers, and water skiers on the Newberg Pool stretch of the Willamette. This has enabled a far higher number of people to safely recreation. That has democratized, and increased access to the river.

Some machines just don't make sense in some places. Let's keep Oregon's pioneering program in place, and encourage the wake boat industry to be more accountable to other river users, private property owners and the Willamette River's

health.

Please do not advance SB 1590!