

Submitter: Jon Bowdoin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

I strongly support SB 1590 for a number of reasons and would be happy to discuss these individually with anyone on the committee.

SB 1590 will increase public access to towed water sports for my family and hundreds of other families along the Newberg Pool. This includes restoring carefully planned zones by the OSMB, shaped with input from diverse river stakeholders including small businesses, environmentalists and homeowners. These zones ensure safety for river users and the environment by limiting towed water sports to suitable areas.

SB 1590 carries forward the Oregon State Marine Board's Newberg Pool Towed Watersports Education Program so boaters remain informed about the latest boater safety measures, effective wave management techniques and operator responsibilities.

Waves created by boats from a safe distance (i.e. 200 feet+ from shore) do not significantly impact shorelines according to peer-reviewed scientific studies.

Residential development is the leading source of human-caused erosion in the Newberg Pool according to ecological restoration engineer David Gorman. Moreover, natural occurrences such as winter storms have a much greater impact on erosion than boating. I can provide a number of pictures of the Rogers Landing parking lot flooded by the high river waters. This wintertime rise of 15-20' is also readily verifiable with USGS data.

There is no empirical evidence or peer-reviewed study that links the current restrictions to having any positive effect on fish populations. Wake sports largely take place in the summer, outside of key migratory or spawning months. Studies show that wake boats waves, when operated at least 200 feet from shore, do not carry enough energy to have a significant impact on most shorelines. Rather, the significant number of fallen trees and logs carried downstream when the river is up 10, 15 and sometimes even 20' has a dramatic impact on shaping and reshaping the shoreline. As well as significantly damaging docks and related accessory structures.

Thank you for reading this testimony.