

Submitter: Grant Olson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

I have been a user and participant of the Upper Willamette River for marine watersports for over 35 years. I moved to a residence on the river in 2015 to take full advantage of all the river has to offer including Wake sports ( surfing/ wakeboarding) , waterskiing, kayaking, paddle boarding, as well as fishing. In my 8 years now on the river the only shoreline damage that I can see is during the winter and spring months where water levels and flows are 8-15ft above summer levels which causes "Drawdown" slides. This happens when the banks get soaked with water now holding that weight to then slide when the water retreats. In the spring you can drive up the river and see all these bare dirt slide areas with no vegetation . This is not caused by boat traffic of any sort but instead a natural result of an ecosystem of rising and falling river levels. Furthermore, the erosion videos and pictures of shore erosion provided in previous testimony was that of mud deposits and not the shoreline soils. Every winter a layer of mud from the high waters is deposited on the lower 2-5 ft of shoreline elevation. It takes usually 2 months to erode that mud deposit and get back to the sandy shoreline that is stable. 99% of the erosion is due to rain, wind, current, and river levels and not Boat traffic. A better focus should be on safety and or zones or hours to engage in wake surfing activities and not some fabricated evidence of bank erosion to satisfy a stated agenda to return the river to its natural state ( Lewis & Clark times) so paddle boarders can have their river the way they want it. We paddle board and have no problem with any of the watersports taking place. Thanks for listening...