

Submitter: Jennifer Alkezweeny

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

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Dear Chair Golden and Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to SB 1590. This bill reverses nearly 20 years of work to ensure protections agreed upon as necessary to protect the natural ecosystem of the Willamette River, more specifically the vulnerable section called the Newberg Pool. Since the passing of SB 1589, which prohibits wakesurfing in the Newberg Pool, environmental conditions have improved yet still remain fragile due to noncompliance for the existing bill by wakeboard boaters. Since SB 1589 was passed there has been a documented increase in the numbers of people recreating on the river in non-motorized boats.

As a kayaker, I have first hand experience with the impacts of some wake boaters repeatedly generating huge wakes with blatant disregard for the safety of those in kayaks, canoes, and on stand up paddleboards. The wake generated by these boats can easily capsize a kayak and create dangerous conditions for those recreating in non-motorized boats.

SB 1590 would remove the statutory protections for the Newberg Pool reopening this area of the Willamette to again experience the conditions that led to the passing of SB 1589. This bill undermines the work to put in place critical protections for the fragile river ecology such as habitat for juvenile salmon, as well as the safety of non-motorized boaters, swimmers, and those on the shoreline.

Thank you for considering my testimony in opposition of SB 1590 and voting to maintain the protections we have worked hard to put in place.