

Submitter: Susan Taylor
On Behalf Of: I am a riverfront homeowner
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure: SB1590

I have lived on the upper Willamette for 20+ years and my family and I are avid boaters and water skiers. The thought of the upper Willamette being opened again to wake surfing is frightening. We lived through the 5-7 years of incessant wake surfing in front of our home and all the damage to the river bank, our dock, and to our ramp. The river is just not wide or large enough. Things were better for the couple years when surfing was contained to a few areas, however if you needed to get through the wake zone (traveling to Newberg, for example), the surf zone was incredible dangerous due to the enormous wakes. Many in the area touted for years that if surfing was banned, our property values would plunge and people would move away. Well this has not been the case. The water skiers and rowers are back out, families are back on the river enjoying pontoon boats, it's enjoyable not to be tossed around on our dock, and our property values have continued to increase and homes for sale are very hard to come by. We strongly oppose wake surfing coming back to the upper Willamette.