

Submitter: Molly Huskra

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

Dear Committee members,

I have been a paddler in the upper Willamette for decades. When the wake boats became popular several years ago, it wasn't too bad at first.

But, around 5 years ago, it became clear that the Newberg Pool area was not wide enough to handle these boats and other users at the same time.

As a kayaker, I go slow along the riverbank, and I can watch as the big wakes hit the shoreline. It is so obvious that they are carving out the bank, which leads to erosion and eventual collapse of the bank. I gave up trying to paddle this area a couple years ago, as it got overtaken by the wake boats. Just not enough room.

It only takes a couple wake boats at a time to ruin the river for dozens of other users. I came back last summer, with the new regulations, and it was so much better. More diverse users, more people in general, not causing damage to the natural shoreline. I urge you to not pass this bill.