

Submitter: Mark Burton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

I strongly oppose SB1590. I have sampled most of the submitted testimony for and against, as of this date. The well-referenced evidence clearly establishes that the creation of strong wakes for recreation is damaging to property, wildlife, and the broader environment, as well as posing a risk to smaller watercraft and the people who use them.

Please give due weight the facts and references presented by James Fraser of Trout Unlimited, and additional information in the submission by Jennifer Fairbrother of the Native Fish Society, both regarding wildlife. John Weigant provides essential information about relevant impact to the broader environment.

While some testimony in support refers to “peer reviewed studies,” after reading most of the submissions, I could find no references. Also, burning enough fossil fuel to power boats weighing over 5,500 pounds at a speed sufficient to pull surfers clearly contributes to our dangerous problems with carbon emissions, a problem that our state government is elsewhere clearly committed to mitigating.

In regard to the personal appeals for SB1590 to support family recreation, I find no reason that families cannot find sufficient outdoor recreation that is not harmful to others, especially in Oregon. There is naturally occurring surf on the Oregon coast. Human powered craft do not create carbon emissions, and they provide greater health benefits due to the requisite exercise. Ethan Jewett of the 55th Cascadia Scout Troop provides additional helpful testimony regarding childhood recreation.

Please leave current well-considered and previously-debated legislation in place. I oppose SB1590.