

Submitter: Kirsten Day

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

As an outrigger canoe paddler, I am writing to oppose repeal of provisions regarding the towed watersports program under SB1589. Wasabi Paddling Club and several other dragon boat and outrigger paddling clubs, individual paddlers and SUPs use the Newberg Pool for paddling activities. The Willamette River is narrower in portions, making safe use of the river by motorized as well as human-powered craft critical in order to avoid injury and damage. With motorized craft, speed is a major issue, as is the size of the wakes generated both by speed as well as artificially manufactured wakes by the wake boats. Wake boats often appear oblivious to other craft on the river and their effect on the other craft.

SB1589 vastly increased safety through reduced speed and reduced wake size. While I can understand that those using wake boats desire the larger wakes, the Newberg Pool is not the proper location for this activity. Other portions of the Willamette, Columbia river and other bodies of water are available for these activities where narrowness of the water body and location within a major metropolitan area does not contribute to congestion.

I implore you not to repeal portions of SB1589 - please vote no on SB1590. Thank you.