

Submitter: Andrew Holtz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire should reject SB1590 and its careless repeal of the thoughtfully considered protections of the Willamette River Newberg Pool enacted by SB1589.

SB1589 was the result of over a decade of public process that included voluminous input from all stakeholders as well as thorough fact-finding and review of scientific studies of the effects of wakeboarding on this narrow and delicate waterway. The resulting reduction in disruptive wakes has allowed the environment to begin to heal. It has given wildlife a better chance. It has allowed recreation to blossom.

By contrast, SB1590 would rashly toss aside that process and progress. Proponents of repeal make a flawed argument that SB1590 unreasonably restricts people from using the river. In fact, wake sports in this narrow waterway used to (and would again) essentially deny all other users the enjoyment of the river, endangering people and inflicting scientifically documented harm to the environment and wildlife. We don't allow street racing in public parks. Reasonable regulation makes just as much sense on the water.

SB1589 is balanced and reasonable. It does not ban motorboats. It merely regulates uses that harm people and the river.

Preserve SB1589 and our beloved river. Reject SB1590.