

Submitter: Kelly Holtz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire should reject SB 1590 and its careless repeal of the thoughtfully considered protections of the Willamette River Newberg Pool enacted by SB 1589 in 2022.

SB 1589 was the result of more than a decade of public process. Included was comprehensive input from all stakeholders, as well as thorough fact-finding and review of scientific studies of the effects of wakeboard boats on this narrow and delicate waterway. SB 1589 and the resulting decrease in destructive wakes are allowing the environment to begin to heal, giving wildlife a better chance, and allowing humans to return to the river.

By contrast, SB 1590 would rashly toss aside that progress. Those who favor the repeal argue that SB 1590 unreasonably restricts people from using the river. Wake sports in this narrow waterway used to essentially deny all other users the enjoyment of the river, endangering people and inflicting scientifically documented harm to the environment and wildlife. Reasonable regulation just makes good sense on the water.

SB1589 is balanced and reasonable. It does not ban motorboats. It merely regulates uses that harm people and the river. There is no reason to change anything.

I urge you to oppose SB 1590. Thanks.

-- Kelly Butler Holtz