

Submitter: Jillian Studer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

As a George Fox University graduate, I have many fond memories spent at Roy Rodgers landing during the summer time. Since 2021, I have missed out on countless summer memories as my family has opted to launch our boat from other popular locations instead due to the restrictions in place. These regulations are harmful to Newberg's economy as it diverts many families to other locations. Whenever we go boating we load up on all of our groceries beforehand at the local stores and afterwards we always enjoy dinner in Newberg.

SB 1590 will increase public access to towed water sports for hundreds of families along the Newberg Pool. This includes restoring carefully planned zones by the OSMB, shaped with input from diverse river stakeholders including small businesses, environmentalists and homeowners. These zones ensure safety for river users and the environment by limiting towed water sports to suitable areas.

Residential development is the leading source of human-caused erosion in the Newberg Pool according to ecological restoration engineer David Gorman. Moreover, natural occurrences such as winter storms have a much greater impact on erosion than boating.

There is no empirical evidence or peer-reviewed study that links the current restrictions to having any positive effect on fish populations. Wake sports largely take place in the summer, outside of key migratory or spawning months. Studies show that wake boats waves, when operated at least 200 feet from shore, do not carry enough energy to have a significant impact on most shorelines.

I urge you to support SB 1590 as it provides an important solution to a problem created by a poor use of legislative time and resources.