

Submitter: John Wyland

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

I am writing today in support of SB 1590. This bill is much needed to help balance the issues within our region come back into balance. The pendulum has swung to far, and needs to get corrected. SB 1590 carries forward the Oregon State Marine Board's Newberg Pool Towed Watersports Education Program so boaters remain informed about the latest boater safety measures, effective wave management techniques and operator responsibilities. The bill also 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. And if not done now, the State should be implementing a standardized factory weight limit not only prevents larger boats from towing riders but also streamlines enforcement. The present weight limit (combined factory dry weight and ballast) has no national standard which has posed significant challenges for consumers to determine if their boat is eligible and for the marine board to accurately enforce.

PLEASE PASS SB 1590.