

Submitter: Sassan Rahbari

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

Good morning honorable members of the committee. My name is Sassan Rahbari. I am a homeowner along the Newburg Pool, a recreational boat owner, and enjoy the river and water sports. I am thankful for the opportunity to share my experience of the past 7 years regarding the impact of Wake Surfing in particular.

Living in River Mile 42, I have witnessed the contrast between normal water sport activities versus when Wake Boats were running up and down the river. This contrast became very clear during the summer of 2019 when my property was in a "Wake Zone". During that year we could not stand on our dock without getting knocked down due to large wakes generated by wake-boats. Our dock was damaged as a result of violent movements. We lost a row of trees and about 2 feet of our shoreline. The river wasn't safe - we were thrown off our paddle boards and our kayak was nearly swamped. The following year we were no longer in a "wake zone" - Wake boat traffic significantly dropped and we have not had similar issues since. Considering what I witnessed before and after summer of 2019, it is clear that large wakes created by wake-boat traffic caused property damage and their absence has made Newberg pool safer.

According to information from the boat industry and boat-owner forums, the average weight of a recreational boat is 2500 lbs, while wake-boats can weigh double that and up to 10,000 lbs with their filled ballasts. They are specifically designed to create choppy wakes of over 2 ½ feet to be ideal for wake surfing. Their impact is significant within 300 feet. I believe even 300 feet is a conservative estimate.

When 2 boats cross each other in the Newburg Pool, they are forced to be <200 feet away from our docks and the shoreline. The river is simply too narrow for wake-surfing in Newburg Pool. Therefore I urge you to please let SB1589 stand.

Thank you!