

Submitter: Bryan Wiepert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

Please pass this bill! 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. 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.

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. It just makes no sense and is incredibly confusing!

Waves created by boats from a safe distance (i.e. 200 feet+ from shore) do not significantly impact shorelines according to peer-reviewed scientific studies. Previous testimony in years past has been anecdotal as best and terribly biased at worst. Iphone photos and stories of things falling off docs don't constitute scientific data. There are now peer-reviewed studies. Those should be evaluated against, and with, personal experience, but weighted towards data.

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. The Willamette Valley receives over 30in of rain annually. The rise and fall of the river levels during the rainy season had zero impact according to opponents of this bill. Again, anecdotal data vs facts.

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.

Again, please pass SB 1590. The goal of the OSMB is to make our waterways safe and useable for all, not just the select few who live on the river. This bill sets clear

rules and guidelines for boaters to follow and will allow more people to enjoy our beautiful river. It's a win for all Oregonians.