

Submitter: Brandon Cresswell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: SB1590

Hello, I am writing to ask you support in the passage of SB1590, which seeks an equitable and common-sense approach to public river management. The current law is confusing, inconsistently enforced, based on a complete misunderstanding of boats, and misrepresents the potential impact from wakeboard boats operated responsibly.

Although I firmly believe that all public spaces should remain shared and not restricted for any one user, I support common-sense education, safety enforcement and partnership to ensure ALL users of Oregon waterways can safely enjoy them. The current restrictions are a deliberate attempt by one set of river users to ban another. The law is unclear, to boaters, manufacturers, law enforcement and members of the marine board. Despite that, when my family (including kids 6, 8, 10) bought a new-to-us boat, I wanted to ensure we were compliant with Oregon regulations. Given the unclear and conflicting wording (banning ballast but measuring a theoretical installation of ballast as part of a boats total weight) I consulted with an OSMB employee to ensure our boat complied and would be usable on the river near our home. I was given an approval through multiple communications. However, when I went to apply for my permit, I was denied, and was told they would be "enforcing the rule differently," effectively outlawing the use of our boat to teach our kids to wakeboard, waterski and more.

This is just one of many stories of families who have effectively been outlawed from using a public space. There has been a real economic impact to river-related business, and to many families who made a large investment only to later have the ability to use it taken away with no warning or reason. Updating this law to remove problematic language and arbitrary rules is one critical step toward remedying the issues created by the current law. Thank you for your support on behalf of my family, our children, and our river-recreating community.