

March 26, 2025

Dear Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment,

I oppose the passage of SB 103.

I have lived along the Newberg Pool section of the Willamette River since 2003 and have done watersports activities in this section of the river since the 1980s.

Prior to 1990, recreational boats were designed to create a minimum wake and they were operated on plane most of the hull is out of the water and skimming along the surface. Waterskiing was a popular activity, boats were less than 20 feet in length, weighed less than 3500 pounds, and were designed for 6 to 8 passengers.

By the 1990s, wakeboarding was starting to become popular and to create a larger boat wake, the boat owners were putting weights at the rear of their boats (e.g. sacks full of water called Fat Sacks) or having passengers sit at the aft section of the boat. By the 2000s, manufacturers were starting to redesign their boats and changing the hull shape and adding water ballast systems which could be directed to different sections of the boat to create a desirable boat wake for wakeboarding and wakesurfing. When persons are engaged in wakesports (i.e. wakeboarding and wakesurfing), these boats are not operated on plane. They are operated as displacement hulls to create a large boat wake. The boats can weigh more than 10,000 pounds with their water ballast and their fuel consumption can exceed 15 gallons/hour when engaged in wakesports. These are not environmentally “Green” machines!

SB1589 (2022) was an attempt to minimize the damage to the environment, property, and make recreational boating activities safer for all. A boat plowing through the water will generate a wake and

the heavier the boat / the more water it displaces, the larger the boat wake.

I like to kayak and waterski but I am limited on when I can do these activities because of boat wakes. It is not enjoyable to kayak when you are being constantly rocked by waves. On a busy summer day, the large number of the boats on the river churns up the water and the boats making the larger wakes create waves which do not dissipate until they reach the river bank. I have a measuring post in 10 feet of water adjacent to my dock and I can see wave heights of 12 to 18" for most of the day when boating activity is high. The studies which I have seen will mention the wakes and wave energy of one boat. In a span of one minute I can frequently see 5 boats operating past my dock. The 500 foot width of the Newberg Pool is not enough distance for the boats generating large wakes to dissipate.

Allowing heavier boats on the river to engage in activities which create large waves does not make sense. You can go to the beaches along the coast and see the erosion caused by the energy of the waves. When you go to a lake or river in Oregon, the wind-generated waves are minimal and don't have the impact that I have seen with boat wakes.

The OSMB may want to consider waterbodies in Oregon which could support wakesport activities and install wave attenuation devices to protect the environment and property. It could be done but do the users wanting to participate in these activities want to support in the costs?

Regards,

**Dale Mack
Aurora, OR**