

Submitter: Jennifer Taylor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

While I support SB 301 on it's own, I strongly oppose amendment SB 301-1, specifically because of the amendments to ORS 830.640 and 830.643.

These amendments gut the weight restrictions that were established under SB 1589 (2022), and create a loophole which affects the enforceability of SB 1589 (2022).

I am an owner & resident of a floating home, a non-motorized watersport participant (dragon boat, kayak, paddle board), as well as a power boat owner who frequently sees & experiences the negative effects of wake boats and their operators on our waterways & other users. Wake boats affect the safety of other boats and user on our rivers, primarily non-motorized users, & they do damage to shorelines as well as floating structures like docks, homes, and boat houses. Without a proper buffer zone, well beyond what Newberg Pool can accommodate, wake boats should not be allowed in the Newberg Pool area (nor other areas with that can accommodate a buffer zone of at least 500 feet). Prior to SB 1589 (2022) taking affect, I was reluctant to paddle in the Newberg Pool area given previous experiences, since SB 1589 (2022) took effect, I have paddled in the area multiple times and it was much safer and more enjoyable experience.

The issue I see most often is wake boat operators not dumping ballast tanks, creating a huge wake that is less impacted by the "dry gross weight" of the boat than the capacity of the ballast tank. If the vast majority of problems are caused by not dumping a ballast tank, then the ballast tank capacity is a critical factor in should these boats be operated in an area, especially when a wake boat that has properly dumped their ballast tank is the rare exception.