

Submitter: Catherine Suchowij  
On Behalf Of: WASABI Paddling Club  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

Dear Community Representatives,

I am providing the following testimony in opposition of Measure SB 301. I am a legally blind dragon boat paddler, who is a member of the Wasabi Paddling Club based on the SW waterfront of Portland. Doubling the weight for wake boats on waterways is a safety risk for non-motorised water sports enthusiasts. I was in a capsize event last summer, involving a boat moving through the Holgate Channel at high speed, flipping our dragon boat and immersing about 22 people into the water; some losing important personal belongs, while others sustaining minor injuries. All in all, we were very lucky that no one was seriously injured. Boat traffic in these channels between the Hawthorne and Sellwood bridges are passing through at unsafe speeds, often towing, or creating large wakes, which in turn, disrupt the enjoyment for outrigger canoes, dragon boats, sailing craft, paddle boarders, and many others. I ask that Measure SB 301 be overturned, and water safety enforced, so that everyone can enjoy our beautiful waterways.

Thank you,  
Catherine Suchowij