

Submitter: Gary Grieve

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

Subject Line: Oppose SB301

I have lived in the Newberg Pool for more than 25 years. My property is on the waterfront with a permitted dock.

I am writing to oppose SB301 which would result in increased damage from large wake boats in the Newberg Pool.

Allowing ballast in these large boats would result in bigger waves being produced by these heavy boats and they would do irreparable harm to the Willamette River and its environs.

Since these boats started operating on the river in 2005 I have steadily lost shoreline along my bank. I have heard that one of the wake boat proponents hired an engineer to "survey" damage in the Newberg Pool and he spent one day on the river and ended up saying that the shoreline erosion is caused by homeowners.

That is blatantly false.

This is a tactic to blame the victims suffering from damage caused by these large wake boats and it is wrong.

I have lost at least 35 feet along one section of my property and, about 10 feet in the area protected by my dock (which is in great shape and consists of old-growth logs that have been on the river for 60 years.)

In addition, the section of the river directly across from my property has no homes or docks on it and it is experiencing severe slides and damage to its riverbanks. The same with Champoege Park.

This is unacceptable. SB1589 has helped protect habitat, shoreline and make the river much safer for everyone. Leave it alone and vote NO on SB301.

Operators of wake surfing and wake boarding boats frequently do not observe the current rules and create unsafe conditions for my family to enjoy the river and our property.

I am deeply concerned about the safety of those enjoying the river. This damaging behavior is endangering children, pets, small boats, kayakers, swimmers, fishing and other users of the river.

I support recreational uses of the river provided that those activities don't endanger others or harm the river. The Upper Willamette is simply too narrow, fragile, developed and congested to balance the needs of all users without some type of wake control measures in place.

I urge you to vote NO on SB301 and its amendment to allow ballast that would double the weight of these boats. Your actions will help protect safety, shoreline, property within the Willamette Greenway and ensure this treasured recreational resource will continue for a wide range of recreation uses for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Gary A. Grieve