

Submitter: Donald Fuchs

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 301 AND HB 2447. ALL other users of the river including property owners, have been testifying for many years to protect the Willamette River, other river users AND our private property from the EXTENSIVE disruption and damage that these wake boats have caused. I am particularly sensitive to this because I have had to pay for very expensive remediation prior to the passing of SB 1589 due to the damage caused to my property by these large wake boats. These wake surfing boats are designed to create ocean like waves that quickly and heavily erode the soft sandy soil which comprise the shorelines and also damage well maintained docks along the river, costing each owner thousands of dollars each year to repair the damage from these wake boats. These wake boats are such a small subset of boats in the river that cause an inordinate amount of damage and disruption for ALL other users. We have spent years and tens of thousands of dollars to pass SB 1589 in 2022 which required bi-partisan support, agreement amongst all constituents of river users, and significant scientific studies. It also has enabled the marine board to implement its own studies as necessary to determine impact. Since SB 1589 was passed in 2022 we have finally achieved a more reasonable balance between the various users of the Willamette River. THE ONLY PURPOSE OF THIS SB301 IS TO REMOVE THE PROTECTIONS THAT WERE PUT IN PLACE IN 2022 AND WILL TAKE US BACK TO A COMPLETELY DISRUPTED STATE OF RIVER USE WHICH WILL AGAIN LEAD TO THE SIGNIFICANT CONFLICTS THAT WERE THE REASON FOR SB 1589 and the wake restrictions prior to that time.

This is very simple. VOTE NO ON SB 301 AND HB 2447 and let's use our legislative resources to solve new problems that are facing the state rather than catering to a few wealthy owners of very expensive boats who can freely use them in other locations that are far less damaging and less intrusive to all of the other users of the Willamette River.