

Submitter: Joe Howell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

I have lived in the Willamette Valley for nearly THREE decades. In that time, I have kayaked, rafted, swam, fished, and played in the Willamette River from Eugene to the Columbia River. In the time that "wake surfing boats" were openly permitted to operate without restrictions, there were many negative effects to natural habitats, shorelines, and water clarity.

In response to this proposed measure:

We need to CONTINUE TO LIMIT the factory-specified maximum factory ballast capacity in the allowable maximum weight of the motorboat;

We need to MAINTAIN the requirement to provide information on the maximum factory ballast capacity of the motorboat.

We need to MAINTAIN the requirement that the towed water sports program compile information regarding the maximum factory ballast capacity specification of motorboats that towed watersports motorboat decal was issued.

Just because people have and spend the money to buy these over-powered, nature destructing boats does not mean that we should allow them to wreck natural habitats and contribute to destructive and often dangerous activities in areas where many people recreate and enjoy the natural beauty of the Willamette River.

Please maintain and UPHOLD the guidelines and restrictions currently in place on these high-dollar destructive boats that have been put in place for the preservation and protection of the Willamette river and ALL users of the Willamette River.