

Submitter: Kayti Graham

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

Dear Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

My name is Kayti Graham and my family and I are active users of the Willamette River. I am writing you to express my strong support for Senate Bill 301. The towed water sports community has a very simple and reasonable request with this legislation to be treated equally to all other boat users in the deep waters of the Newberg Pool.

Many boaters with ballast capability are unfairly excluded from participating in their favorite activities, such as tubing, water skiing and wakeboarding in the Newberg Pool, because their unused ballast weight is counted toward the overall weight limit. Today, a fishing or pontoon boat with a dry weight of 5,500 pounds is eligible to tow a tuber in the Newberg Pool, but an everyday recreational boat with a much lower dry weight cannot because it has ballast capability, which is prohibited.

At the end of summer 2024 my family and I purchased a new boat and when we took it out on the water, we were quickly informed of all the rules about ballast and the weight of our boat. We purchased a brand new boat and now we can not do the things we love with our kids because of the weight. The kids do not understand, and honestly neither do my husband or I, why we can not tube or wakeboard. We do our part and pay our registration fees and parking fees at the launch only to be punished by our state government. How unfair to have this beautiful stretch of water right in our backyard that we can not use our boat on.

I do not believe legislators intended to exclude more than 90% of new recreational boat models from the river, crushing local small businesses and making it almost impossible for everyday people to buy qualifying boats. We want to have the opportunity to share the river, have fun with our families and safely enjoy the sports we love for a few months out of the year.

Please support local small businesses and families like mine by passing this small yet meaningful ask.

Respectfully,

Kayti Graham