

Submitter: Lucetta Elmer  
On Behalf Of: State Representative HD24  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 301  
Submitted by Representative Lucetta Elmer  
House District 24 – Chief Sponsor

March 24, 2025

Senator Sollman, Chair  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Legislature

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support for this bill, which directs the Oregon State Marine Board to study issues related to the safe operation of motorboats and submit its findings to the Legislature by September 15, 2026.

As someone who lives near the river and whose family actively boats on it, I have a deep appreciation for both the beauty of our waterways and the responsibility that comes with using them. For us—and for many Oregonians—boating is more than recreation; it is part of our way of life and our connection to the outdoors.

I understand there are differing views on the use of motorized boats, particularly among those concerned with environmental impacts. I respect those concerns and believe this bill provides a constructive way forward. Rather than preemptively impose new restrictions, it calls for a data-driven study that includes stakeholder input and thoughtful analysis. This is a collaborative and reasonable step toward informed policymaking.

This is the third session in which I've introduced legislation related to this issue—not out of stubbornness, but because I believe we can find a balance that honors access, safety, and stewardship. A comprehensive study led by the Marine Board is the right place to start.

I'm proud to sponsor this bill alongside Senator Meek, and I respectfully urge the committee's support.

Sincerely,  
Representative Lucetta Elmer

Oregon House of Representatives  
House District 24