

My name is Kaitlyn Morgan. I am writing today with deep passion and unwavering support for Senate Bill 301, a bill that will remove the ballast restrictions from the Newberg Pool and open up the waters to more opportunities for wakeboarding, waterskiing, and tubing. This bill represents more than just a policy change — it's a chance to allow the community to enjoy the river again and be able to participate in the things that we love to do. We also want to be able to preserve the traditions of towed water sports that we hold very near and dear to our hearts.

I grew up on the river. From the time I could remember, the river was my playground, where I spent most of my summer days, and where my birthday parties were from age 5 to the present. I spent countless summers with my family and friends, going on the boat and tubing with my friends, hearing the laughter echoing across the river, and feeling pure joy of being on the water. The river wasn't just a place, it was home. And, like so many in this community, water sports like wakeboarding and tubing were a huge part of the experiences that shaped my childhood.

But today, that access is being restricted and taken away from us. The current ballast limits on the Newberg Pool make it increasingly difficult for families and recreational boaters to enjoy the activities that have been part of our culture for generations. This bill is our opportunity to restore those connections, not only for our generation but for the next. I want my children to be able to enjoy the river the way that I was able to. We cannot let the river that shaped our memories remain a distant dream for future generations of boaters.

I know that change can be hard, and that the opposition is already vocal. But I also know that we, as a community, have the power to make our voices heard. I urge every single person who values these traditions to take just a moment and stand up in support of this bill. The river has given so much to us; now is the time to give back and fight for the future of towed water sports in Newberg Pool.

Please, let's not let this moment pass us by. I am asking all boaters, families, and lovers of the river to speak out and show our legislators that the majority of the community stands firmly behind this reform. This is not just about a bill; this is about preserving the heart and soul of what makes our river community special.

I've spent my life on this river. Let's make sure the next generation has the same chance to create memories on the water. I wholeheartedly support Senate Bill 301, and I encourage you to join me in making this vision a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kaitlyn Morgan