

Submitter: Lyn Larson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

My name is Lyn Larson and I live in Corvallis. I canoe with my husband on the Willamette, mostly between Peoria and the boat landing in Corvallis, so I am familiar with even a mild boat wake and the effect it can have on small boats like canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards. As was explained to me by Willamette Riverkeeper, removing ballast weight reintroduces a dangerous loophole. The ballast weight is essential to calculating a boat's operational weight. Boats equipped with ballast tanks dramatically increase their wake size when tanks are filled. Removing ballast weight from the weight calculation would allow these high-wake boats to legally operate in the Newberg Pool, reintroducing the very conditions that forced the Legislature to act in 2022. Wake boats using ballast create waves two to five times larger than non-ballasted boats, according to peer-reviewed studies. These wakes directly harm the river's ecology and other recreational use.

Please don't mess with a rule that works to protect the river! Just because I don't live in Portland, doesn't mean I don't care about the ecology of ALL the reaches of the Willamette.