

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Aileen Kaye

Date: 5-24-25

Re: "No" on SB 301-1

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

I urge a "No vote on SB 301-1.

I have a deep respect for Willamette Riverkeeper. Here is an excerpt from a post by them. I agree with them.

### **Stop the Rollback: The Truth About SB 301 and Why It Undermines Public Safety and River Health**

The wake boat industry and a small group of proponents are once again pushing misleading narratives to justify gutting critical river protections under SB 1589 (2022) through the newly introduced SB 301 and its -1 Amendment. Let's be clear—this bill is not about "sharing" the river; it's about weakening enforceable safeguards that protect public safety, wildlife habitat, and equitable access for the broader community.

**SB 301 is a Trojan Horse.** While it is framed as a simple "study bill," SB 301—paired with the -1 amendment—is a deliberate effort to gut the protections established by SB 1589 (2022). This legislation will directly undermine public safety and environmental safeguards in the Newberg Pool by removing ballast weight from how wake boat weight limits are enforced—a move that reopens the door to oversized, wake-producing boats in this ecologically sensitive section of the Willamette River.

I urge you to not allow this bill to move out of committee. Thank you.