

Submitter: Camille Hall
On Behalf Of: recreational user
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

Dear Chair, Senator Sollman ; Vice-Chair, Senator Smith ; Member, Senator Golden ; Member, Senator Pham ; Member, Senator Robinson,

My name is Camille Hall, from Corvallis Oregon, but I also use the Willamette River out of George Rogers Park in Lake Oswego. I strongly oppose SB 301 and Amendment #1.

The proposed amendment would eliminate ballast weight from vessel compliance under existing law (SB 1589, passed in 2022). This will completely undo the progress made under SB 1589.

The Newberg Pool is a narrow section of the Willamette. The existing law does not affect most of the Willamette River. This area is one of a few in the greater Portland area that provide safe and accessible water and shoreline for paddle boarding, swimming, fishing and family recreation. The existing law has helped reduce dangerous wakes caused by heavy-ballast wake boats, which cause significant erosion and habitat degradation, in addition to the very real threat of swamping smaller craft or swimmers.

Removing ballast weight from the weight calculation will allow oversized wake boats to re-enter this area which is heavily used by non-motorized water craft and swimmers and is home to a variety of fish and wildlife. This legislation directly threatens public safety, water quality, and critical fish and wildlife habitat in this specially-designated Newberg Pool area.

Motorized boats weighing 5,500 pound weight are currently excluded from the Newberry Pool. This amendment is an attempt to redefine the weight cap to pretend that ballast weight is not part of the regulated vehicle weight. It makes a mockery of the original law which was intended to exclude these very vehicles. SB 1589 was supported and defended by a broad coalition of wildlife biologists, law enforcement officers, and thousands of river users.

There are other places on the Willamette where heavy wake boards can run. Please

say no to this attempt by a few commercial boating operators to undermine this important law.