

Submitter: Dorothy Friedrich

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to SB 301 – Protect Public Safety and Habitat in the Newberg Pool and the Willamette River

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

My name is Dorothy Friedrich, and I am writing today as a resident of Clackamas County and a mother of three children who value the health of our waterways. I strongly oppose SB 301 and its -1 Amendment.

When my family moved to Oregon from Connecticut in 2019, we were excited about the prospect of enjoying clean, vibrant rivers near our home. We believed that Oregon's natural resources were well-protected and thriving. Unfortunately, we discovered that this wasn't entirely true, and it appears that the state has neglected these precious resources for too long.

The Willamette River is a vital ecosystem that needs our protection, not further degradation. The current protections established by SB 1589 (2022) are already making a positive difference in maintaining river health and safety. Removing ballast weight from vessel compliance calculations, as proposed in SB 301's -1 Amendment, would undermine these protections and allow oversized wake boats to return to this sensitive area.

These large wakes threaten public safety, accelerate shoreline erosion, and harm critical habitat for endangered salmon and steelhead. As a parent, I want my children to experience the beauty and recreational opportunities that a healthy river provides, but that requires maintaining effective protections.

I urge the Committee to reject SB 301 and the -1 Amendment. Please prioritize the long-term health of our rivers over short-term industry interests. Our natural resources need time to recover, and our children deserve the chance to enjoy healthy rivers for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Dorothy Friedrich
Clackamas County, Oregon