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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

This "study" is a ploy to allow wake board boats- those with added ballast used by recreationalists to generate large waves in order to surf- on a sensitive stretch of the Willamette River where these artificial waves wreck havoc. This is the second or third time that hobby boating lobby with their big boy toys have tried to push for these boats on our river. They should take their big boy boats to a big boy river like the Columbia where large waves on a bigger, rougher river can handle these artificial waves. You can't just use whatever vehicle you want because these waves undermine finer sediments (Willamette River has a lot of silt lining the banks from glacial times), erode the banks and cause turbidity that our wild life and wild fish can't live with. Normal seasonal floods don't damage the shorelines quite the same and the river has had thousands of years to set its courses and floodplains to accommodate that high-flow flood energy) There are plenty of other ways to enjoy river life as humans, but keep those big boy ballast boats in the rougher waters where boaters can experience the real challenge of big water. Ballast boats in the Willamette Pools is like hovering a helicopter with fierce down draft winds over a delicate meadow where wildflowers would get decimated. Use the right wind/wave in the right place which would be at a paved airport or a big river in this analogy.