

Submitter: Mark Crawford

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

My name is Mark Crawford and I'm an active user of the Willamette River. My family and friends spend hundreds of hours per year boating on the Willamette and other Oregon rivers and lakes. I am writing to you to express my strong support for Senate Bill 301. The towed water sports community has a very simple and reasonable request with this legislation to be treated equally to all other boat users in the deep waters of the Newberg Pool.

We and other boaters with ballast capability are currently excluded from enjoying our favorite activities (tubing, water skiing and wakeboarding) in the Newberg Pool, simply because our unused ballast weight is included towards our overall weight limit.

I do not believe legislators intended to exclude more than 90% of new recreational boat models from the river, impacting small local businesses and making it almost impossible for people to buy qualifying boats. We want to have the opportunity to share the river, have fun with our families and safely enjoy the sports we love for a few months out of the year.

Please support local small businesses and families like mine by passing this small yet meaningful ask.

Respectfully,
Mark Crawford