

Submitter: Chelsea Clancy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

SB 301 is a step backwards that risks public safety, habitat protection, and fair river access.

I urge Oregon's lawmakers and the public to reject this industry-driven effort to weaken Oregon's river protections. The Newberg Pool is one of the most heavily used and sensitive sections of the Willamette. It is no place for unchecked wake-enhancing boats.

Removing ballast weight reintroduces a dangerous loophole.

The ballast weight is essential to calculating a boat's operational weight. Boats equipped with ballast tanks dramatically increase their wake size when tanks are filled. Removing ballast weight from the weight calculation would allow these high-wake boats to legally operate in the Newberg Pool, reintroducing the very conditions that forced the Legislature to act in 2022.

SB 1589 is already reducing these impacts by limiting boat size and ensuring ballast is factored into the weight cap. The current law works and is supported by science.

Please oppose SB 301 and protect the Willamette River users who value safety, habitat protection, and access for all.