

Submitter: Dana Yip
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

Oregon State Marine Board
435 Commercial St NE, Suite 400
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for Modifying Ballast Boat Regulations in Newberg Pool

Dear Oregon State Marine Board,

I am writing to support a revision of the current regulations regarding ballast boats in the Newberg Pool. While I understand and respect the intention behind the restrictions on wakesurfing and towed watersports, I believe there is a reasonable middle ground that would allow larger boats to operate without utilizing their ballast systems.

Many modern boats are designed with built-in ballast tanks but do not require them to function safely. By allowing these boats to operate with empty ballast tanks, we can maintain the intent of the regulations while accommodating responsible boaters who wish to enjoy the river in compliance with the rules. Additionally, with proper guidelines, towed watersports can be conducted in a way that minimizes impact on shorelines and other users.

I encourage the Marine Board to consider a modification that permits larger boats to be used in the Newberg Pool, provided their ballast systems remain empty. This approach balances safety, environmental concerns, and fair access for all boaters.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Dana Yip