

Submitter: Julie Ramsey-Harris
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301
SB 301 Julie Ramsey-Harris Comment

Dear Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

Please read my entire personally written letter to you.

While SB 301 does not address all the unjust regulations applied to the Newberg Pool shared below, it is extremely helpful and supportive of allowing boaters and families to play in my backyard and the Willamette River! I WELCOME THEM ALL!

I LIVE on the Willamette River. I would like to be able to enjoy family activities with my community in my back yard, around my dock, and in the river! My family and many other families in the community whose boats have ballast capability are excluded, without valid reasoning and cause, from participating in their favorite river activities including tubing, water skiing, and wakeboarding in the Newberg Pool. I am writing you to express my unwavering support for Senate Bill 301.

The current legislation prohibits family recreation because the unused ballast weight is counted toward the overall weight limit in acquiring a towed watersports certificate. SB 301 serves to empower the boating community by USING THE DRY WEIGHT TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY for a towed water sports certificate in order to provide clear guidance to the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) to manage the towed water sports program and allow boaters to understand which boats qualify. The current legislation's "maximum ballast capacity" is overtly punitive to one class of boaters and is severely unjust. Legislators excluded more than 90% of new recreational boat models from the river. Boaters want to enjoy their OREGON mandated "right to recreate on the river", have fun with our families and friends and responsibly enjoy the sports we love for two to four months each year.

The context of the regulations applied to the The Newberg Pool is informative and very important in your consideration of SB 301. I have been involved in this dialogue for over ten years now. The Newberg Pool is one of Oregon's most highly regulated water bodies and the The towed water sports certificate, only required in the Newberg Pool, is an undue burden and cost to applied all boaters. The boater community is unjustly burdened. The additional regulations, only in the Newberg pool, require boaters to meet weight requirements, unjustly pay for and complete an additional duplicative online safety education course, AND apply pay for a towed watersports certificate and decal. The boater is also required to pay to renew the

certificate EVERY two years. These requirements are only for the Newberg Pool!

In summary, please vote yes on SB 301. Please also recognize the unjust legislation not resolved by this legislation that continues to unjustly burden boaters in the Newberg Pool.

Please call or email me for any questions you may have or simply to dialogue further regarding the Newberg Pool.

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Respectfully,

Julie Ramsey-Harris