

Oregon Legislature

March 26, 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: SB301

Dear Senators

My name is Eric Lintner. I've lived on the Willamette since 1987 and waterskied there several times even before that. Lest you think that makes me old, I still waterski a couple of times a week starting usually in April each year, though I've quit competing in that sport.

I truly appreciate your desire to represent your constituents and serve as many good and beneficial causes as possible. BUT, I'm guessing that you've also come to realize that not all constituents or causes are on the best pathway forward on lots of issues.

This brings me to the use of wakeboats on the Willamette, an issue that I've worked on since 2007 or 2008. I've spent countless hours attending meetings, digesting studies and testifying. Back when this started, it was boats slightly larger than the norm with ballast tanks added by their owners. As the years have gone by, the size and capabilities of these boats has grown substantially. Some boats now have sophisticated ballast tanks (that can pump dry in seconds) and systems to shape wakes and make them larger. The wakesports industry has created this issue and has also strongly supported its continuation. Note that these boats can now cost over \$200K, due to inflation, size and sophistication, though other wakeboats are smaller, lighter and less sophisticated. The current law draws the line on weight (including factory ballast capacity) at a limit higher than I would like, but at an acceptable level.

FINALLY, we have legislation and administrative rules that have served to protect the river and its users and landowners. This means protect the majority of users. This also means rules that are easily understood and enforceable. Some users and industry representatives have chosen to look at this in view of their own interests, not choosing to see the bigger issues. That's human nature, but I'm asking you to see through that.

PLEASE vote no on SB301.

Thank you very much for your service

Eric Lintner

Wilsonville