



Dear Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 301. For the record, my name is Eliza Walton. I am the coalition director at the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV). It is a network of 40 not-for-profit organizations throughout Oregon, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy.

On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, we would like to register the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and the Oregon Conservation Network is neutral on SB 301 as written. However, if the "-1" amendment is adopted, SB 301-1 would be elevated to a Major Threat to a Healthy Oregon.

The "-1" amendment would change the existing, reasonable statutory framework that balances one recreational user group's use of the river with the State's concerns for water quality, threatened fish species, public safety, and protection of private property.

Specifically, the "-1" would change the calculation of which boats are authorized to purchase a "towed watersports" endorsement in a way that allows larger boats to qualify than are currently allowed. To qualify for a towed water sports endorsement, existing law requires that the dry gross weight of the boat plus its ballast capacity equals less than 5,500 pounds. The "-1" would delete the ballast capacity from this equation, but leave the weight limit at 5,500 pounds, thereby allowing boats to qualify for the endorsement which currently exceeds the limit by thousands of pounds.

If the Legislature is interested in changing existing law on this topic, then OCN recommends that the Legislature provide funding for the study contemplated by SB 1589, and direct the Marine Board to complete the study and use that to inform changes to the existing framework.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eliza Walton".

Sincerely,
Eliza Walton
Coalition Director
Oregon Conservation Network
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
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