

Submitter: Nadine Fuchs

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

I would like to submit MY OPPOSITION to HB 301 and its amendment. I have lived on the river for over 12 years and have watched the evolution of this issue as wake boat technology has grown and the previous marine board rules became impossible to enforce. We have experienced significant damage to our property directly as a result of these large wake boats and the wakes that they produce. We had a major section of our land erode into the river as a result of the undercut caused by these wakes. This was occurring even when there were marine board rules in place preventing the use of wake enhancing devices which was simply ignored. The river patrol was unable to enforce the rules because they could not prove that boats were utilizing ballast which could be quickly dumped when river patrol was spotted. The current legislation solved that problem by preventing wake surfing and prohibiting large wake surfing boats from engaging in towed water sports. This legislation was based on science which the legislature required in order to pass this current legislation. Now we are being asked to amend this legislation without any studies or science to appease a few owners of large and expensive boats that can take them elsewhere for their towing activities. They are able to boat in the river currently, just not tow anybody because they are simply unsafe in this stretch of river and cause significant property damage. If you pass this legislation you will take us back to the high levels of conflict that we had prior to the current legislation, which has finally provided a much better balance amongst all of the various river users. PLEASE VOTE NO ON SB 301 AND AMENDMENTS.