

Submitter: Nick South

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

Good evening & thank you members of the committee, my name is Nick South and I'm the General Manager of Lifestyle Wake in Bend, OR. I'm writing in support of SB 301.

I had the pleasure of working 4 years for Active Water Sports in Oregon City. I logged countless hours in the Newberg Pool helping create life-long memories with each family I sold a boat to, in addition to promoting safe boating practices for ALL boaters. Now I'm working in Central Oregon for Lifestyle Wake as the General Manager and I'm still passionate about the Newberg Pool waterway as I have family, friends, and business associates impacted by the current restrictions of SB 1589.

I also lived on the water in the Newberg Pool from 2014-2018 & grew up skiing / riding out there before I had the pleasure of living on the water. It was always a safe & enjoyable place for my family and I to recreate in the Spring, Summer and Fall. Taking away this beautiful stretch of water only adds congestion in other parts of the river such as the lower Willamette, ultimately making things less safe for ALL boaters.

I've seen several people asserting that ballast is difficult to enforce. I wanted to take a moment to share my professional expertise on ballast.

- o Ballast is only used for wake surfing, which remains prohibited in the Newberg pool.
- o Boats using ballast are very easy to spot as they sit significantly lower in the water, and the swim platform is under water. I personally know people who have received ballast tickets simply from an officer seeing their boat sitting lower in the water.
- o Enforcement is simple. Marine patrol can easily see someone wakesurfing and issue a ticket.
- o Ballast is solely used for Wakesurfing, not skiing, tubing, general cruising the river.

Thank you for your time and I urge you to consider supporting Senate Bill 301.

Respectfully,
Nick South