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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

I love been able to paddle in the Willamette river. Paddling keep my family healthy and happy. It is a family sport that I do with my husband and sons.

My paddling club, Wasabi, is such a supportive community. The young, the old and the disabled are all welcome. Being on the water gives all of us the joy of working out.

The river has becoming more dangerous for us fellow paddlers the last few years. Twice, I was on the boats that capsized by speed boats. The last time, my husband got trapped under the boat. It was such a scary event. He suffered concussion because the boat hit his head when it flipped. It took a long time for many of our teammates to return back on the water.

Unfortunately, many of the wake boats drivers don't understand how the wake their boat produces impose damage to the man-powered boats. When the weather is nice, lots of motorized boats shared the river with us. It takes just one wake boaters not knowing how to properly operate the wake boat to flip our dragon boat.

Dragon boating is one of the very few low cost, all age and skills levels welcome team sport. We need to make sure the river is safe for us at all times. We take all necessary precaution to keep this sport safe for all of us, but we can't control what other boaters do, that is where we need your help. Thank you for listening to our plea for help because you can make the difference in keeping the river safe for everyone.