

Chair Sollman and members of the committee, thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak with you today. The boating community respects your time constraints and has chosen to keep our hearing testimony to a minimum number of people. Please look over all the written testimony to see our support.

My name is Matt Radich, I am an avid river user and the president of Active Water Sports, a tow boat dealer with three locations in the Portland area – I am here in support of SB301.

As there seems to be rampant misinformation about this bill. I am here to clarify the facts on what this bill seeks to address, and that is the removal of ballast weight from the total weight of boats seeking a towed-sports endorsement for the Newberg Pool.

Key points to remember:

1. None of the provisions set into law in 2022 will change
 - Ballast is illegal to use in this area – that will not change
 - The 5500lb limit remains the same
 - The ban on wake-surfing remains the same
 - The need for the towed-sports-endorsement remains the same
2. SB301 does not allow any heavier boats or have any provisions that will add wave energy – it only removes the punitive language that leads to excessive restrictions on one class of boat
3. A concern is that ballast can't be seen – ballast is normally only used for wakesurfing which is also illegal in this area and very easy to identify
4. Ballast can be added to any boat at any time, tying the max weight to "maximum specified factory" ballast unjustly adds weight to towboats that may not even have ballast
5. The only intent of SB301 is to have all boats treated equally

Leading up to this hearing, there has been a wide variety of narratives put out by those that oppose SB301. Of all the different reasons they are giving for stopping this bill, there is only one that actually speaks to what the bill would

change. And that argument is that people with ballast are just going to use it anyway – that should not be the reason this bill dies. Being told that I, and an entire user group, are untrustworthy lawbreakers is both frustrating and disappointing. The vast majority of tow-boat owners follow the rules and want to be compliant – that's is why we are here.

For the Oregon small businesses and hundreds of families affected by this, I urge you to move this bill forward and bring equitability back to the Newberg Pool.

Respectfully,

Matt Radich
Willamette River User
President, Active Water Sports