

Submitter: Suzi Cloutier

Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment Measure, Appointment or

Topic: SB301 Senate Committee on Energy and Environment Oregon State Legislature 900
Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to SB 301 – Protect Public Safety and Habitat in the Newberg Pool and the
greater Willamette River.

Dear Chair, Senator Sollman ; Vice-Chair, Senator Findley ; Member, Senator Golden ;
Member, Senator Hayden ; Member, Senator Lieber:

My name is Suzi Cloutier I am a resident of Sandy OR but have been a weekly utilizer of the
Willamette River as a competitive paddler for the past 24 years, and have, in the past,
made my vocation on the Willamette River as an Environmental Specialist.

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to SB 301 and its proposed amendment
to remove ballast weight from vessel weight regulations in the Newberg Pool. I am very
concerned that this bill and its amendment would undermine the progress made under SB
1589 (2022), which has significantly improved both public safety and ecological health in
this unique section of the Willamette River. The Newberg Pool is an important ecological
area to wildlife and threatened and endangered fish species and has been slowly
recovering from ballast driven erosional waves all along the banks. This area is a safe and
vital space for paddlers, swimmers, anglers, and other low-impact users who rely on its
calm waters.

The inclusion of ballast weight in boat restrictions under SB 1589 was essential to reducing
unsafe wakes and conflicts between river users. Removing this ballast weight
consideration will reintroduce the same enforcement challenges that plagued the area for
over a decade. I am concerned about this decision both here in the Newberg pool and
elsewhere should SB 301 be rolled back in other key areas of the Willamette River.

Respectfully,

Suzi Cloutier