

Submitter:

Kelli Clark

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

Greetings: The Willamette River is a jewel in the State of Oregon. Thousands have worked with dedication, heart and science to clean and restore much of this waterway which, at 217 miles, is the fourth longest river trail in the U.S. Amending the guidelines to remove ballast weight from how wake boat weight limits are enforced creates an opportunity for boats throwing larger wakes to access this narrow section of river. I paddle the river now and did 30 years ago. Navigating the Newberg Pool then was like taking your life in your hands with large, fast boats operating with disregard for safety, other users or obvious shoreline damage. This is no longer 1995. Be forward thinking: preserve and protect the river. The guidelines we have now work well and despite calling Senator Meek's office on 3/27 to understand why this change is being sought, there was no compelling statement or reason that over-rides the current success. We have safer shorelines, erosion prevention and, by extension, preservation of wildlife and the health of this beautiful water. I urge you to leave current guidelines in place and defeat SB301. Thank you for your consideration.