

Submitter: BARBARA Hampson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

I am writing on behalf of all dragon boaters, kayakers and rowers on the downtown section of the Willamette River. Adding weight transmits to power of wake boats and it will only exacerbate conditions that have already created problems. Our club, Wasabi Paddling Club sustained at least 4 capsizings during 2024 due to wake boats or other craft of similar power...in one instance the passengers on the boat looked back but continued on their way. In another our visually impaired paddlers were capsized. In another, albeit thie one years past, a wake boat kept pace with the boat until suddenly accelerating, causing the steer of the boat to fall off, leaving the boat out of control.

Wake boaters have rights, too, in larger areas where they have more room. But in the areas near the marina downtown where rower and paddler teams are practicing we NEED STRICTER SIGNAGE and consequences for offenders. We do not need another tragedy on the river, as happened last summer.

Thank you