

Submitter: Lisa Cohns

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

In Opposition to SB301 - 1

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong opposition to SB301 with the -1 amendment, which has been amended to simply reinstate the wake enhancement device (WED) ban originally implemented in 2009, a time when wake boats weighed around 3,500 pounds, ballast was commonly used, and boat design and technology was not focused on making large wakes. That is sixteen years and a boatload of technology ago. (Ha)

The Oregon State Marine Board testified that a ban on wake enhancing devices, also known as ballast, was “ineffective and unenforceable”. Yes, this is a problem.

SB301, as amended, would permit the largest wake boats to obtain a towed watersports decal, which certainly will have significant and negative consequences on the safety and quality of our waterways.

SB301 would not only undo these positive changes, made after careful consideration by law makers, but could also hinder progress in managing our waterways for a growing number of recreational users.

I urge lawmakers to consider the advancements we've made with current regulations and to reject SB301, as it would take us backward in our efforts to create safer, more accessible waterways for all. No going back, please!

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.