

Submitter: Stan Halle

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

I wish to be counted as strongly OPPOSED to SB301 - Amendment #1

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong opposition to SB301 including the Amendment #1. This Amendment reinstates the wake enhancement device (WED) ban originally implemented in 2009. At this time wake boats weighed around 3,500 pounds, ballast was commonly used, and boat design and technology was not focused on making large wakes. That must be compared to today's much larger/heavier boats that create 3.5-to-4 foot high wakes – the energy of which tear up the shoreline, destroy breeding grounds for fish, and are a MAJOR SAFETY HAZARD for non-motorized boaters & swimmers.

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

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

SB301 would not only undo these positive changes, which were made after careful consideration by law makers & the OSMB, 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.

Thank you for your consideration.