

Submitter: Sharon Halle
On Behalf Of: ORSPA
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

I am vehemently OPPOSED to SB301 and the attached Amendment One:
I wish to express my opposition to SB301 including the Amendment One. This Amendment reinstates the Wake Enhancement Device (WED) ban originally implemented in 2009, 16 years ago. Back then, wake boats weighed on average 3,500 pounds, used lots of ballast, and boat design and technology was not focused on making large wakes. That must be compared to today's much larger/heavier boats that are designed to create large and dangerous wakes. These large wakes severely impact shorelines, destroying breeding grounds for fish, and pose a severe safety hazard for kayaks, paddle boats, small motor boats & swimmers.

The Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) 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 would have significant negative consequences on the safety and quality of our waterways.

SB301 would not only undo these 16 years of positive changes, made after careful consideration by lawmakers & OSMB, but would also hinder progress in managing our waterways for a growing number of recreational users.

I strongly lawmakers to consider the advancements we've made with current regulations and to REJECT SB301, so we don't go backward in our efforts to create safer, more accessible waterways for all.

Thank you.