

Submitter: Laura Freeman  
On Behalf Of: Wasabi Paddling Club  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

I am strongly opposed to this measure.

I've known the Willamette River my entire life from childhood sailing to my current paddling activities on both dragon boats and outrigger canoes. This space is being fundamentally altered and made increasingly dangerous by the surge in watersport boats. The massive wakes they generate have already led to unsafe incidents, including a dragon boat capsize I experienced from seat 8 in the boat. It was caused by a negligent wake boat operator. As a steersperson, I am now seriously considering abandoning my role due to the sheer impossibility of safely navigating the hazardous waves these boats create – a responsibility for potential injury I cannot bear. Furthermore, the escalating erosion and damage to the riverbank and floating homes caused by these relentless wakes demand immediate attention.