

I am submitting testimony to oppose SB 857. This legislation has been drafted without good sound research/studies and is not representative of the community at large.

My son is a Crew member and uses the water ways for his training, so we are very familiar with the need to balance the use between all people. They have had issues with motorized boats AND kayakers. The waterways are a public location for everyone to use and outright banning one group is not the solution so that a few people can use the river for their SOLE enjoyment. My family and I have abided by all the new registration rules and adjustments. We have registered and make sure to only use the river in the areas designated. Now you are asking us for an outright ban on the use.

Our waterway policies should be grounded in solid research and favor the general public, not select waterfront homeowners and paddlers looking to eliminate motorized boating for their own personal gain. Real studies should be conducted to determine the best ways to keep the river safe and healthy. The Newberg Pool is already one of the most regulated bodies of water in Oregon, and wake surfing is only allowed in two small zones with no adjacent homes.

This bill will make our waterways less safe and negatively impact Oregon families and small businesses. A well grounded study should be done along with enforcement and high penalties for failure to comply should be used to balance the needs of all, not an outright ban. Too many times in our society we punish the many because of a few. This will be another one of those times. If there are issues with people not abiding by the rules, penalties should be enforced and increased.

Again, our family fully understands the concern with a Crew member and having a boat on the river. We have seen first hand when someone doesn't follow the rules, but there were NO consequences. We have also seen first hand a row boat hit a kayaker because the kayaker wasn't abiding by the rules! We still oppose SB 857!

The House already extensively debated this bill and did not move forward. I respectfully urge you to do the same. Oregon needs our senators focused on COVID, economic recovery and getting our kids back in school. Please do not waste time on this unnecessary legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Carl Grending