

I am submitting testimony to strongly oppose SB 857. This legislation is born out of special interest agendas and is not representative of the community at large. Taking away use of any public waterways will put our small business out of business and I have personally been a boater in the Portland area my entire life, from going with my Grandfather who has now passed away a few years back. Our waterways are public and any of the rules should be enforced first before you take rights away from the boating community. Most people DO NOT even know that the HB/SB even exist to limit or prohibit public use. Most of the boating community that makes up our business, did not know of the many restrictions throughout Oregon or the Portland area towing restrictions and like myself, have NOT seen any enforcement made. These bills MIGHT make sense when enforcement has failed and transparency is given, but NEITHER are the case right now.

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. Furthermore, 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. 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,  
Tricia Cook