

I am submitting testimony to oppose SB 857. This legislation is born out of special interest agendas and is not representative of the community at large.

Boating with my family is invaluable time together where we can enjoy the day. We tell stories, laugh, enjoy the scenery, enjoy the Sun, and enjoy the Willamette River and activities we can do with our Boat (Wake Surfing, Tubing, and just hanging out / swimming). Purchasing our Boat in 2013 has been the best investment we could have made as a family. It brings us all together in a way that we all enjoy. Time is precious and this is our time to maximize our family time together before the kids form a life of their own and move on to their next stage of their life. Eliminating and restricting the use of our Boat on the Willamette River would take away the activities we do weekly. We do not always have the ability to drive to a nearby Lake - which is around 1 3/4 hours away. But when we do, these lakes & boat ramps are already busy & at capacity. If you close down the Willamette to recreational Boating (Surfing, Tubing, etc), these nearby Lakes will now be bombarded with Boaters trying to capture their family time - which will create overcrowding & dangerous situations.

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,

John P. Craven