

Oregon Legislative Members:

I am submitting testimony to STRONGLY oppose SB 857. This legislation is not representative of the community at large and needs more consideration before a law like this is implemented. Watersports are a major community event - not only in Portland, but all of Oregon. My family grew up in Tualatin, OR (near Hebb Park) and we have owned a Waterski/Wakeboard Boat since I was born. It created a huge sense of family, community, and fun for our family and friends - as it has for numerous other people. We went out on the river so we can waterski, wakeboard, wakesurf, and tube - not to just drive a boat around the area.

PLEASE reconsider this bill as so many families, children, and community people will be negatively impacted.

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,

Chris Thompson