

Dear Chair Wagner and Committee Members:

Today I am writing you in support of SB 857. I own a kayak and a canoe and paddle often in the Willamette River. I am a courteous paddler and steer my boat to the side of the river when other boats approach, thus sharing the river.

Many times, I have had to pull out of the way of larger boats whose drivers will not slow down to minimize their wake's impact on me. Unfortunately, these waves have a variety of impacts besides knocking over my boat, from making the river unenjoyable and unsafe for other river users, destroying private property, and impacting the nearshore areas of the river.

In the past few years, motorized craft known as Wake Boats have grown in size and impact, today reaching the point where their use is problematic on a number of levels. These craft are having a very real negative impact. By placing a weight limit for towed water sports boats, we protect the Willamette river, protect private and public property, and we protect other river users. Please support SB 857.

Thank you for your service,
Sincerely,
Cindy Kimball