

Dear Chair Wagner and Committee Members:

I am writing to provide support for SB 857. As a lifelong Oregonian and Metro resident, I grew up paddling and swimming on the Willamette. In high school I rowed on a crew team from Roehr Park. I value the Willamette's wildlife and spend time walking and bird watching along the shore. My job at Portland State University is focused on protecting rare species and conserving their habitats, many of which rely on a healthy Willamette River. Today, all these activities are threatened by the increasing use and impact of wake boats.

Over 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 boats are designed to generate artificial waves and are causing a lot of problems on the Willamette River, and beyond. Wake boats create significant damage to private property, which is well-documented. They also impact every other user of our flat water rivers, making them very turbulent waterways that negatively impact recreation. Further, the artificial waves damage the ecology of our river's as they hammer the nearshore area, causing harm to the aquatic ecosystem, and impacting wild fish, freshwater mussels, macro invertebrates and more.

Your support of SB 857 can:

- Protect the Willamette River's nearshore habitat and species listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
- Protect numerous homeowners who have documented damage to their boats, their docks, and shorelines due to artificial wave action.
- Protect all other river users who are subject to the whims of these boaters. Swimmers, power boaters, paddlers, and those who fish have been threatened by these craft and have experienced well-documented incidents with damage to their craft, or they have been swamped by the artificial waves.

Please support SB 857 to take a small step towards creating huge benefits for the river, and for the thousands of river users affected by a minority of wake boat users.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Wise
Tigard Resident