

I am submitting testimony to express my EXTREME OPPOSITION to SB 857. These bills would impose a broad ban on towed water sports on the Willamette River and restructure the State Marine Board.

HB 2555/2725 and 2695 died in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources with bipartisan opposition due to hundreds of people like myself testifying against these bills. However, Sen. Kennemer is trying to circumvent the process by introducing SB 856 and 857 as priority bills. These bills are identical to the bills that failed to pass muster in the House, and are now waiting for potential action in the Senate Rules Committee.

There is no need to push policy through the legislature without due process that affects such a large segment of Oregonians who enjoy the river with their families. Please oppose SB 856 and SB 857—we need all stakeholders to work together to come up with a cooperative, long-term solution to address boating and towed water sports on the Willamette River.

Respectfully,

Stewart Mers