

Dear Chair Wagner and Committee Members,

I'm asking you to please support SB 857. Limiting the size of the giant and powerful wake boats that now tear up and down the river is the right thing to do for both the river/shore ecosystem and the ability of the vast amount of us regular folk to enjoy the beautiful Willamette River. I'm 72 and have been walking, swimming and kayaking the river for years. I can't overstate the impact these huge and fast boats that make up to 4 foot waves come crashing to shore for minutes each time one runs by. My kayak has been knocked over twice and now, no longer feeling safe, I don't kayak the river anymore. That is a huge loss for me. My dog swallowed water and almost drowned one time he was overtaken by a series of large waves while swimming to fetch a ball. For so few entitled people to have such an oversized negative impact on the rest of us trying to enjoy a summer day on the river is extremely unfair. Please let the entitled few (who else can afford those boats?) and the powerful motorized boating industry find someplace else to pretend like they're surfing. That's what the ocean is for, not a beautiful and peaceful river flowing through the Willamette Valley.