

Support SB857: Protect Willamette River

Dear Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

I am a resident of more than 20 years at 12130 SW Riverview Lane in Wilsonville OR which is located about 1.8 miles upstream of the I-5 bridge. My property is on the waterfront with a permitted dock.

I am writing you seeking support for SB857.

The size and frequency of large wakes produced by heavy watercraft on the river are doing irreparable damage to the Willamette River and its environs.

They are doing environmental damage to the river and its banks and the wildlife that depend on it. I believe the environmental viability of the Willamette River is threatened in this narrow section of the Newberg Pool by large wake-producing boats and boating behavior. The river is too narrow and environmentally sensitive to handle this activity from large heavy wake boats.

SB857 will go a long way to helping improve all recreation in the Newberg Pool and reducing environmental damage to the river and its habitat.

This bill is NOT about banning boats. I have a boat and it is an appropriate weight for this environmentally sensitive section of the river.

This bill is really about correcting the mistake the Oregon State Marine Board made in implementing HB2351 and HB2352 when they set the boating weight limit at 10,000 pounds. They ignored scientific evidence and the letter from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Services calling out the effects of wave action on fish and the turbidity in the river.

This needs to be fixed and SB857 will do that.

I support recreational uses of the river provided that those activities don't endanger others or harm the river. The Upper Willamette is simply too narrow, fragile, developed and congested to balance the needs of all users without some type of wake control measures in place.

I urge you to support this bill and do the right thing for Oregon and the Willamette River. Doing so will help protect safety, shoreline, property within the Willamette Greenway and ensure this treasured recreational resource will continue for a wide range of recreation uses for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Grieve