

Support SB857 -- Protect the Willamette River

Dear Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

The Newberg Pool in Willamette River is taking a pounding from large heavy wake surfing boats. This section of the river is only 500 to 600 feet wide. It is a slow moving pool (hence the name) and the banks are silt based.

SB857 will help fulfill the legislative intent of HB2351 and HB2352 that were passed in 2019 and IGNORED by the Oregon State Marine Board when they chose the heaviest boats for the maximum loading weight at 10,000 pounds.

The Marine Board and staff didn't want to anger the wake surf industry so they took the EASY way out and set a weight limit based on current new model boats for sale. NOT what was right for the river and its environment. NOT what was the intent of the 2019 legislation.

SB857 will reset the weight limit to something closer to what boats weighed when the problems began in the early 2000s.

It will reduce the destructive waves damaging the sensitive banks of this narrow section of the Willamette River and damaging sensitive and endangered fish habitat.

It will protect the Willamette Green from environmental damage from massive high energy waves that are not natural or sustainable in the Newberg Pool.

Please support this legislation.

Thank you,

Willamette Greenway Alliance
Boat owners and homeowners supporting responsible recreation on the Willamette River