

Please vote in favor of SB857

While it is true that the Newberg Pool already has regulations, it's not solving the problem. For over 10 years, prior to new regulation, wake enhanced boating was prohibited on the Newberg Pool, but it was not enforced because an officer could not ascertain whether a boat had a wake enhancing device. New rules were adopted in 2019, establishing zones and 200 foot rules for docks and shoreline. This didn't work because the surf zones were seeing record shoreline damage and the 200 foot rule was nearly impossible in the busy summer season. Then the Oregon legislature passed HB 2351 and HB2352. These bills mandated that the OSMB consider the Willamette River Greenway in their rulemaking and establish a weight limit for towed watersports. The OSMB chose 10,000 pounds as the weight limit (nearly twice the average boat weight) based on maximum ramp capacity and desire to not restrict the boats currently for sale, not taking into account HB 2351 at all and clearly disregarding the intent of the legislature. This is why this SB857 is before you today: to correct the OSMB's mistake and align the rules with the original intent of the bills that were passed two years ago.

Thank you for your consideration in protecting this fragile river.