

My name is Greg Smith, and I am a resident of West Linn. A few weeks ago I found myself reconsidering my support of SB 857 after doing some cursory research on the average weight of ski boats. The first entry I encountered on Google stated that the average weight of 12 of the most popular models was 4,657 pounds. I then wrote to Senator Kennemer suggesting that the weight limit be increased to 5000 pounds. When I learned that the legislation had not been amended, I went back and examined websites with information about each of the models. Doing so, I discovered that eight of the boats are advertised as wakeboard boats, three as ski boats; the 12th model is a dual-purpose lightweight boat that according to users rides barely above the surface of the water with the addition of extra weight needed to create wakes. The average weight of the actual wakeboard boats was 5,423 pounds compared to 3,549 for the ski boats. What this confirmed for me is that most water skiing and tubing on the Willamette will not be prohibited if this legislation is passed. Please vote to move SB 857 forward to discussion and vote by the Senate.