

I am submitting testimony to oppose SB 857. This legislation is born out of special interest agendas and is not representative of the community at large.

After spending 5 years in the Navy and moving all around the country, my wife and I started a family of our own and decided to settle down in the Portland area. We found our dream home in an amazing community in Wilsonville with private dock access for the neighborhood. It is the perfect scenario for boat ownership and the ability to utilize this amazing river. I long to create memories with my children towing them around the river, watching them learn and grow in whatever water-recreation sport they so choose. We have 3 children that are just old enough to start towing around the river in the beautiful Oregon summers. This bill will greatly hinder our ability to utilize the water as a family. I want to create long lasting memories with/for my kids on this beautiful river.

Our waterway policies should be grounded in solid research and favor the general public, not select waterfront homeowners and paddlers looking to eliminate motorized boating for their own personal gain. Real studies should be conducted to determine the best ways to keep the river safe and healthy. Furthermore, the Newberg Pool is already one of the most regulated bodies of water in Oregon, and wake surfing is only allowed in two small zones with no adjacent homes.

This bill will make our waterways less safe and negatively impact Oregon families and small businesses. The House already extensively debated this bill and did not move forward. I respectfully urge you to do the same. Oregon needs our senators focused on COVID, economic recovery and getting our kids back in school. Please do not waste time on this unnecessary legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tyler and Michelle Way