

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.

Our family has been enjoying boating for over 15 years and this is what we love about living in Portland. Our boat towing a wakeboard creates smaller waves than the yachts that go past us creating even larger wakes. We feel it is extremely unfair to punish those that are enjoying our rivers. Especially since similar laws have failed to pass in the past. This seems like a waste of tax payers' dollars to continue to attack.

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,

Maria G