

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.

I have been recreating on the Willamette River (specifically the Newberg Pool area) for nearly 20 years. I boat, paddle, swim, ski, surf, and everything in between. I follow all existing rules and regulations, which have increased tremendously over the past several years. This has been a huge part of my family life and has brought us closer together like nothing else. We have three kids and have so many memories as a family out on the river, many times just floating and hanging out. The existing rules simply need to be enforced. There are no wake enhanced activities that are currently allowed by any homes or docks. Please add more enforcement to the river...do not take away the rights of all because of a few bad actors. I know this stretch of river better than most, I have listened to arguments for and against, and I have read the "research" that has been presented (which is horribly biased and lacking true scientific evidence). This bill is not the solution. Enforcement of current rules is.

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,
Scott Williams