

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.

This past year my family and I purchased a boat so we could enjoy the Willamette and create great memories. By limiting our access to the Newberg Pool, all you are doing is pushing boats elsewhere. It feels as if you are adopting the "Not in My Backyard" attitude. This is unjust and unfair to the boaters abiding by all the rules! We have completed the education for Towed Watersports and believe that the areas provided for Surfing are already burdened with enough regulation.

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,

Ryan Imbrie