

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.

As a manufacturer of pleasure boats, we have witnessed firsthand how much boating means to families, especially during Covid, offering a safe socially distant place for families to gather and enjoy activities together on the water. The marinas and boat dealers who support the recreational boating industry and provide jobs to so many, depend on these waterways and would be drastically affected by this bill. The focus should be on bolstering these small businesses and fueling your local economy, not restricting boating opportunities for hundreds of families along the Willamette River.

Waterway policies should be grounded in solid research and favor the general public, not select waterfront homeowners looking to eliminate motorized boating. 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 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 to focus on COVID, economic recovery and getting children back in school. Please do not waste time on this unnecessary legislation. Thank you for your consideration.