

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 am a Willamette river home owner in West Linn. I have lived here for 8 years and my family and I use our dock to access the water for boating, paddling and swimming and I have safely used the Willamette for years and feel that passing this bill would bring inequity to the river community. We can't target certain groups for the benefit of others, especially special interest. It's in the best interest of the community as a whole to consider options that are more inclusive.

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,

Chelsea Mitchell