

PUBLIC TESTIMONY
www.change.org/willametteforall

Thank you Chair Wagner and members of the committee,
My name is Jenny Wiepert. Thank you for representing us at the State Level, we appreciate all that you do.

I have lived in Oregon my whole life and have enjoyed boating on the Willamette in the summer since I was a kid. A friend and I created a petition on change.org called WILLAMETTE FOR ALL (Petition text below) to REPRESENT THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE to share our overwhelming resounding request that you would VOTE NO on SENATE BILL 857. Thankfully and in large part to the huge amount of public outcry this was taken out of committee at the House level. There are over 4,400 signers on this petition, and the signers wrote 23 pages of comments when they signed it. For perspective this document is 131 pages long with all of their names and comments. We have emailed all of your offices with the list of the signers as well as the comments. I will re-email this to all of you today as none of you responded so I don't know if you received them. Many of these signers have enjoyed responsibly boating on the river for years and believe as taxpayers in this state we should all continue to have access to this beautiful public waterway.

We personally know many friends that include river home owners and community members that love the river and have been tax paying members of Oregon for years. We only have a handful of warm weekends in a year and one of the best ways to spend it is down on the river especially during this pandemic! The river is an idyllic and iconic part of summers in Oregon. To think that this legislation could end that for many Oregonians is tragic. If they pass this many people who own a boat in Oregon will no longer be able to use the river at all. With all that is happened in Oregon this year I am very concerned that many people already want to leave our beautiful state and if this passes they could be pushed to a breaking point and we could do many friends leave our state which breaks my heart.

We ask you to listen to the voice of the people in response to this bill. Oregonians, taxpayers, boat owners and river homeowners are all joining in once voice to ask you to represent us and VOTE NO on SB 857. Thank you for your time.