

Dear Chairman Wagner and Senate committee members,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the manner in which you conducted the hearing today on SB 857. I felt very welcomed to offer an opposing view to the bill. I however did not feel that way at all when Representative Witt held a hearing on an almost identical House bill. Representative Witt was extremely disrespectful. Thank you so much for supporting all constituents being heard in a respectful manner.

Secondly, any veil of objectivity to the purpose of SB 857 is pulled back when you consider the following.

The vindictiveness toward wakeboarders and wake surfers rather than an ecological concern for the environment, docks, the river bank or fish is transparent when analyzed below..

SB 857 is aimed at preventing people with a boat in excess of 4000lbs from obtaining a "Towed Water Sports Certificate"; it doesn't ban the use of this boat on the river. A boater is only required to have this certificate if they wish to wakeboard or wake surf.

SECTION 2. ORS 830.649 is amended to read: 830.649. (1) As used in this section, "Newberg Pool Congested Zone" means the portion of the Willamette River beginning at river mile 30 and ending at river mile 50. (2) A person shall carry a towed watersports endorsement if the person is: (a) Engaged in [wake surfing or wakeboarding as defined by the State Marine Board] towed watersports;

Should this bill pass; a person with a 7000lb boat will still be permitted to load up with equipment, coolers and 10 people and pull kids on a tube, kneeboard, and other water toys up and down the river all day long and this Senate Bill does nothing to address the activity or wake that or any other boat is creating. What they have done is ban the sports via banning boater access to the certificate which is now required to perform these two specific sports!

Lastly, I would propose collaboration on mitigating all potential erosion issues before taking Oregon residents to the mat and removing the joy of boating for so many. Families live and move here for the beauty of the water and all it offers their families as you heard many times today. An effort to reach out to all property owners including private, public, commercial, and governmental entities to care for their banks in a way that supports a healthy ecosystem without taking away the right to recreate on the rivers and lakes of the beautiful Pacific NW would demonstrate purity and wholeness of caring for our ecosystems and rivers. Things like this should be done firstly.

In summary, this bill is extremely egregious and a thinly veiled attack on one type of boater. Many other options exist that can be explored before taking such an extreme measure as to take away the boating rights of so many who love Oregon and boating.

I respectfully ask you to vote NO on SB 857.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Julie Harris
Newberg Pool home owner