

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.

Please forgive me if this is a little on the nose but to strip an entire user group of rights base solely on the request of the very user group who stands to gain the most is not proper governing.

In every testimony by "experts and sponsors" when this was a House Bill, and I mean every single one without exception, when questioned about the weight limit of boats and how they arrived at those specific numbers the answers went something like this; "Well when we look at the all the local boats for sale. You know the ones in lots on the pavement ready to go..." Or "Well when we look at the number of boats registered..." Or "When we look at boats who got the endorsement..." The question has nothing to do with the boats themselves (or at least it shouldn't) it has everything to do with what is the impact of a 10,000lbs boat vs a 16,000lbs boat, or a 4,000lbs boat. It just goes to show this isn't about the science and the ecosystem and finding an equitable solution for all. This is about how many boats can be removed from the river before you have a full-scale revolt.

Its maddening to watch these testimonies from "experts" that don't even understand scientific method. You pose a question, formulate hypothesis, experiment, observe, analyze, and FINALLY draw conclusions. Seems like everyone just went straight from hypothesis to conclusions.

Trust me, I want to see the science. As an avid outdoorsman I don't want to engage in an activity that threatens our already fragile ecosystems, wildlife, and sporting opportunities. If this is really about the river and not about the users why not do the right thing and let the science tell us where to go from here? A year long study of the bank is the ONLY true means by which we can gage erosion. 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,  
John Clinton