

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.

Our family got into boating 5 years ago. We have never had so much fun. We have bought and sold 3 boats in that five years and in 2018 purchased a slip at Waverly Marina. Nearly every weekend and roughly 2-3 weeknights we are on the boat, enjoying the river responsibly. I will not hide the fact that there are a few bad apples that have more money than brains and have cast a shadow over the entire sport of surfing. This comes down to a lack of required education and literally ZERO enforcement. In all our years we have never once been approached by a sheriff boat while on the Willamette. In every other water way we frequent (traveling with the boat roughly 6 weeks a year) we get "checked" by sheriffs numerous times. How is it that on one of Oregon's largest commercial waterways there is literally no law enforcement? Can we start there before we start stripping users of rights based on poorly educated boat drivers with no reason to get educated?

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,  
Dana Clinton