

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 go out with my daughter and son in law several times a week. They have always been respectful to other river users and the river itself. I have seen some behavior I would call not appropriate but that isn't limited to boats surfing. Paddlers will lie on their boards or kayaks basking in the sun directly in the center of the channel. It seems there is a general lack of understanding some users in all user groups. I think it's very inappropriate to heap the blame at the feet of the surfers. Please do not make a knee jerk rule based on nothing more than heresy.

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,  
Pam Jackson