

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 have a moorage slip on the Upper Willamette river at Boones Ferry Marina. We are out on the river several times a week from April to September. Wakeboarding and Surfing is already required to pay additional fees and get endorsements in this area. These rules are already biased and don't include the true offenders-tubing. We do not need additional restrictions on the river but rather education and enforcement for all boaters including paddlers and kayaks. The proposed rule does not have a true scientific study that accounts for all factors that affect the rivers shoreline. Wakeboard are only on the water a few months out of the year but are being singled out as the only reason for shoreline changes.

This river is a public waterway and some special interest groups want to turn the Willamette River in to their own private waterway. The river should remain open to the public!

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,
Michael Canaday