

Dear Senate Rules Committee

Thank you for your work on behalf of Oregonians; it is greatly appreciated, especially in these trying times.

I am writing to you today to ask for your **support of SB 857**. This bill is necessary to protect the Willamette River's shorebanks from further erosion, prevent endangered species habitat damage, protect equal access, and ensure public safety. The high energy wake boats, best suited for wide, open lakes, have a negative the ecology and multiple uses of this popular river system.

The 2019 action taken previously by the Legislators to protect the Newberg Pool section of the Willamette River and the Oregon State Marine Board's action to adopt new boater rules to limit wake sports in Portland and other highly congested recreational and narrow lower river areas already recognizes the challenging impact of these large wake-producing boats. The increase of the base allowable weight on new wake boat models to 10,000 appears to be counter-intuitive and will conflict with these recent actions. By allowing heavier models, it increases the likelihood of personal injury to paddlers, rowers, and swimmers, and could logically result in more boating accidents, property damage, and bank erosion. Wake boat size and weights, along with added ballast and devices, create ocean size waves and powerful wake, leading to problems in all areas of the Willamette.

SB 857 **does not** shut down boating in Oregon. Rather, it would be good public policy, building on and supporting the previous bipartisan legislation passed to protect the sensitive river environment within the Newberg Pool. It simply acknowledges that heavy boats, specifically designed to create massive waves, will be required to travel to wider and more appropriate bodies of water- the kinds of water systems for which they are more suitable. Just as busy, two lane roads have slower speed limits, the highly used, populated and ecologically sensitive areas of the Willamette River should have some limited use restrictions. Please recognize that all boaters with a towed water sports decal will still be able to participate in towed water sports even with the passage of SB 857.

I ask you to support SB 857-1 this session. This bill will ensure that the Willamette Greenway is protected from increasing environmental damage as a result of massive, high energy waves, which are not natural or sustainable in the Newberg Pool.

Sincerely,

/s/ Miel Corbett