

Dear legislators,

I am writing in support of SB 857-1.

I have just read several letters opposed to this bill on file- and one major argument is that wake sport boats for the most part are responsible, respectful boat users. The writers argue that everyone can use the river together and that is a fair approach.

There are many places where wake boating is allowed, and many boat sizes. This bill restricts very large boats from a small region. This small region is used by hundreds of beach goers, stand up paddle boarders, canoers, kayakers and rowers every day. And, their enjoyment would be impacted by wake sporting- for example, rowing shells can be snapped in half by a wave- every time a large wake is near, rowers have to turn parallel to the wave until it passes under. I have been next to a rowing shell that snapped in half. Additionally, I have been on the docks as giant waves pass by- it's not safe. Last, 'everyone can enjoy it together' fails to realize that what many enjoy is the quiet. It is important for many Portlanders sense of peace. And for sure, there need to be spaces for those that enjoy wake sporting. But it does not need to be all spaces to be fair.

Thank you.