

I am writing you in opposition to SB 857.

Speaking on behalf of our family, from the Wilsonville Community and neighbors of the Newberg Pool Congestion zone, we are in strong opposition to the new waterway restrictions being proposed in SB 857 for the Willamette River, and specifically in the Newberg Pool Zone. Special Interest Groups have been proposing and pushing basis legislation for years that seek to restrict river usage to select recreationalists and user groups, whereas state laws note waterways belong to the public and not just these select groups.

Our waterway policies and OSMB should be grounded and anchored in factual scientific research, with favor toward the general public, not select waterfront homeowners and/or paddlers looking to eliminate motorized boating for their own personal gain. This bill will negatively and financially impact Oregon families and small businesses, and further cancel our rights to river use. there will be significant financial impact on Oregon families that utilize water recreation and/or have invested significant property investments for boating riverfront access.

The compromise is public waterway education, backed by scientific details, coupled with enforcement, not exclusion of use to special groups. This makes the entire waterway safer for all water recreationalists and promotes equality of the users.

Recreational boating industry helps support nearly 6,000 Oregon jobs and approximately 400 Oregon businesses. These restrictions, if were to be implemented, further stress small business sector & families that depend on the motorized boating recreational industry as a foundation for their personal finances.

Please, we urge you to see the value in one of the major components that make Oregon special; it's public water ways and access to water recreationalists shared by all users.

Help us to provide equality and eliminate unnecessary restrictions like the Newberg Pool zone....and to promote safe, educated, and equal privilege's for all waterway recreationalists.

The House already extensively debated this bill [HB 2725 and HB 2555] and did not move forward, I respectfully urge you to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration.