

Dear Rules Committee,

My wife Laurie and I moved to Aurora last July and purchased a home on the Willamette River between mile markers 42 & 43. We own a Nautique G23 which has a dry weight of 5,900 lbs. and purchased a lift to keep the boat on our dock at our house. We purchased this home because we were able to get a tow certificate and enjoy boating and water sports with our friends, family and new grandchild. I am opposed to SB 857 for the following reasons:

- 1) This bill was introduced as HB 2725, and previously died in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee with bipartisan opposition. This policy is not ready and there is not a broad base of support.
- 2) There was no outreach to the boating community when the bills were being drafted. At the minimum, all stakeholders should be involved to come up with a long-term solution. This should include a study that is done on the Willamette that looks into causes of erosion.
- 3) The -7 Amendment to SB 857 is not a compromise, in fact, it goes further than the original bill that died in the House. While the weight limit is increased to 5,000 lbs, this still bans roughly 50% of Oregonians with towed-sports endorsement decals from using their boats, and the -7 Amendment also expands the Newberg Pool Congested Zone by 8.4 miles and adds paddleboards and hydrofoils to the definition of wake surfing.
- 4) There is no actual study on erosion for the Upper Willamette River. The suggestion by experts is to have at minimum a 1 or more year study to determine the extent boat waves to contribute to bank erosion and to compare all possible factors.
- 5) Where you see evidence of erosion as you travel the Upper Willamette River is nearly always where there is a house and the river bank vegetation is not natural. Where you have natural shorelines, you do not have erosion issues. This is a man-made issue.
- 6) Fisheries experts say that boats have little to no impact on fish runs since the fish and boats are not in the river at the same times.

Please take all of these points into consideration before affecting the lives and investments of so many people.

Thank you,
David