

House Committee on Rules

I am writing to ask you for your support of senate bill 857-A.

Please don't be fooled by the boating industries messaging when they claim this bill will end towed watersports in the Newberg Pool. This bill does not eliminate boating nor does it stop families from experiencing the river together. Boaters have enjoyed the Willamette River for decades without the use of specialized boats created for the purpose of making 4 ft waves. These specialized boats can be used in many bodies of water not far from the Willamette River which can manage the waves they generate and not cause irreversible damage to their shorelines. SB 857-A will simply set a reasonable weight limit of 5000 lbs while allowing the majority of boaters to continue boating with their families and help create sustainable boating practices that will ensure boating continues to be enjoyed for generations to come in the Newberg Pool.

The OSMB has generated data that states the current average weight of watercraft used in the Newberg Pool is 5080 lbs. and there are only 24 boats that weigh more than 5000 lbs currently registered in the towed watersports program. These 24 boats have the ability to enjoy boating in other locations which have a shorelines capable of absorbing the monster waves they generate.

Help stop the out of state boating industry from making this precious body of water a "wake surfing park" and vote "yes" on SB 857-A.