

Good morning,

1) The environment and erosion along the Willamette River is a top priority for me as an Oregonian. If our waterways are destroyed or damaged, I cannot continue to enjoy them with my family and friends. I am concerned with SB 857, as proponents did not seek input from the boating community and there is a lack of scientific data on what is causing erosion on the Willamette River.

2) The original bill, HB 2725, sponsored by Rep. Witt died with bipartisan opposition in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. SB 857 is not ready, and it has been demonstrated that there is not broad support for the policy.

3) The -7 Amendment, which was described by Sen. Kenemer as a "compromise," goes further than the original bill. The weight increase from 4,000 to 5,000 lbs will still effectively ban a little less 50% of all currently registered towed-sports endorsement permits. Additionally, the Newberg Pool Congested Zone is being expanded by 8.4 miles and the definition of wake surfing is being expanded to include paddleboards.

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.

I hope that you share my opinion that policy affecting thousands of Oregonians and their families should not be rushed and that all stakeholders should be at the table to find an equitable and fair long-term solution.

Thank you,

Lindsey Self