

## **Support SB 857**

My name is Ron Garcia. I own a home on the river

I support SB 857 to limit the maximum weight to 5,000 pounds and its requirements to obtain a towed watersports motorboat certificate.

Our family is grateful for Oregon's public waterway laws that grant public access. We are blessed to live with a front row seat to the Willamette River and we love experiencing both the beauty and recreation it offers: watching the daily and seasonal changes that take place naturally - and experiencing the incredible cacophony of fun throughout the summer as boaters motor by with all variety of sports. It is really a joy to watch the daily parade!.

However, our investment in our property brought us several years ago into a sort of sinkhole of confusing federal state and local regulations and environmental protections which prevented us from fortifying our bank in any way, including using natural barriers of fallen trees, or shoring up with soil backfill, or even using indigenous plantings that might end up too close to the shoreline - all of which would allow us protection from the onslaught of erosion that the heavy wake-surf-boarding boats indisputably create. After \$15,000 spent on surveys and engineering to investigate how shore up the riverbank, we are left mostly helpless as our dock and the bank take massive daily onslaughts from these waves - with few other defensive options allowed.

It seems therefore, that the same logic creating protective regulations that help to maintain the splendor of the natural waterways - yet prevent us land owners from acting protecting our investments - should at least likewise be instituted to protect the river as a whole against invasive practices leading to damaging erosion, simply because they would negatively affect another elite group of citizens (who own big boats).

A simple analogy is this: If I buy a new Porsche that can effortlessly cruise at 120 mph, should I demand that the state highways permit me to drive at that speed?

I urge you to vote yes on SB 857 as a fair, safe and protective compromise that would allow all Oregonians to both enjoy the Newberg Pool for its beauty and fun, and help to protect it for years to come.

Ron Garcia  
448 SW River Bend Dr West Linn, OR 97068