

I strongly oppose HB857. As I have the last time we just did this on another identical bill. Nothing in this bill is based on science, just special interest groups trying to prevent people from recreating on the river. The current rules wonderfully when enforced. We have two surf zones for surf boats only. If the police enforce these rules, problem solved.

I live on the river, and there is zero evidence of erosion due to any type of boats. The river goes up significantly in the winter, and washes away the bank, then the soil dries out in the summer and falls more. The same way it's been happening since the beginning of time. This is a very simple issue to understand. In previous testimony by Rep Witt, he made it very clear that this is actually more about boats playing music and the river lifestyle that he wants to prevent for his own special interest.

This bill is identical to HB 2725, introduced by Representative Witt. This bill was already extensively debated and did not move forward. Oregon needs our senators focused on COVID, economic recovery and getting our kids back in school.

It will strip safe, socially distant outdoor opportunities for hundreds of families along the Willamette and impact local small businesses.

This bill is not based on science – Local government agencies, hydrologists, geotechnical and civil engineers, ecologists and arborists all agree the lack of native vegetation and mismanagement of native trees is causing the majority of the erosion on the river, not towed water sports.

The Newberg Pool is already one of the most regulated bodies of water in Oregon, and wake surfing is only allowed in two small zones with no adjacent homes.

This bill not only exacerbates safety issues, but it also fails to solve a primary issue – enforcement. The state has already struggled to enforce the laws and rules we have, and the bills do not address how to deal with the worst offenders who make the river dangerous for everybody.