

To whom it may concern:

I'm in opposition of bill 857

For 20 years I've been swimming, paddling, water skiing, wakeboarding and surfing on the upper pool of the Willamette river.

5000 lbs boats are not the problem

Boater educate, safety, education, training is!

I've seen jet skis cut between a boat and skier

I've seen countless tubers spin in boats of all size that create danger and create a wake that far exceeded a wakeboard or surfwake

I've seen boats too close to one another and docks (boats of all size)

Safe boating through education, training, and enforcement is the answer and the only answer.

Quite frankly I think all those in favor of the proposed bills should be ashamed of themselves. The great PNW isn't that great anymore. Our streets are littered with homeless camps, vandalism, drugs and rioting, and yet special interest groups are focused on taking away a natural resources that has brought joy to families for decades.

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

Thanks you for your time.

Signed:// Matthew Tuski