

TO: House Committee on Rules  
FROM: Brian Farthing  
DATE: 6/24/2021 12PM  
RE: Testimony in opposition to SB 857

Greetings, After growing up enjoying waterways, I've finally last year been able to acquire a boat to enjoy the childhood activities with my family that I used to enjoy. Living in Oregon City, the Sherwood pool is very close and convenient, however I'm now unclear if I'll be able to enjoy any time towing my kids as I don't even know the weight the Marine Board will use to classify my boat. With ambiguous rules and regulations, this change will push more people into already crowded water ways in which I'm already concerned about safety.

What I'm seeing on the Willamette river is not science based, but I'm begging to keep others away from "their" rivers. In the handful of times since being able to enjoy the river, I've not seen a single sheriff, how are these rules going to be enforced? Why the dramatic weight decrease? Why limit the socially distant outdoor space in a season of concern? Since the initial regulations have been introduced in 2020, has there been a study done to determine an impact? Has an analysis been done on average boat weight to wake damage? If wakes were a concern, ALL vessels over xx weight would be banned, who's to say a 12000 lb boat doesn't go for a cruise? This law would do nothing to stop wakes, just stop recreational fun. Until there are studies done to prove the issues, and the law is changed to stop ALL causes, this bill is worthless.

I'm afraid this bill will push me out of my local waterway, into an already overly crowded lower Willamette area, or push me further away yet to the crowded Columbia. I urge you to use science, and reason. I again oppose this change.

Thank you for your time and understanding of my position.