

Chair Smith-Warner and members of the rules committee, my name is Matt Radich, I am the president of Active Water Sports and an avid user of the Willamette River – I am urging you to oppose SB857.

The ramifications of this bill are greatly misunderstood, even by its original sponsors. The language in the bill will ban almost half of the towed-sports boats that are legally operating on this stretch of river. Wave energy from wakesurfing is the primary reason we are here today, but this bill includes restrictions for all towed sports.

I am terrified and greatly disappointed that a poorly written, overreaching, and misunderstood bill with this level of inequity could pass through our legislature. Time and Time again I have reached out to different stakeholder groups, including state legislators, wanting to work on cooperative and inclusive solutions. To date I have only been contacted by Representative Meek.

Please do not ignore the vast number of riverfront homeowners, river users and Oregon small business who oppose this bill. Know that we have time to get something other than this bill in place for next season. We can get key stakeholders together and have something ready and mutually agreeable in place before the next legislative session.

I can't emphasize enough how extreme the negative effects of this bill will be and I implore you to not pass a bill you do not fully understand.

Respectfully,

Matt Radich
President, Active Water Sports
Oregon Boater
Lake Oswego resident

Aaron Marshall, Licensed Professional Geologist with expertise in water resources management:

- *“There are currently no peer-reviewed scientific studies to show that boats exceeding 4000 pounds are the primary cause of bank erosion on the Willamette River. The claims against recreational boats as the cause of erosion are not based on scientific evidence; there have been no studies to substantiate these claims.”*
- *“SB 857 will not solve the problem; bank erosion will persist and can only be mitigated through the use of upstream reservoirs to manage flood events and through comprehensive management of riparian vegetation.”*

Dr. Pedro Lomonaco, Oregon State University Wave Lab, from testimony given to the House Natural Resource Committee, March 6th, 2019 (page20):

- *“The intensity of the erosion produced by boat wakes can be considered as very small”*
- *“Economy, social perception, history, education, policies, and other elements play a significant role in the assessment of the potential effect of boat wakes on the Willamette River Margins”*
- *“A long-term, monitoring program (minimum of 1 year) would provide information on the magnitude of the different agents affecting the morphological evolution of the river margins”*

David Gorman, PE, Principal, Ecological Engineering:

- *“The preponderance of the erosion and bank failures appeared to be located in, and associated with, residential development.”*
- *“A more proactive approach to resolving bank erosion within the Newberg Pool Congested Zone, rather than hastily passing SB 857, would be for the Senate to support a scientific evaluation of the existing bank conditions and their causes.”*

Mark Liverman, Willamette River Specialist for NOAA

- Noted to me that river construction permits are issued for the summer season because this is the lowest impact time for fish