

Chair Wagner, members of the committee, my name is Scott Hix and I am here to testify in opposition to SB 857. This legislation is born out of special interest agendas and is not representative of the community at large.

I am a second-generation Oregonian and owner of a house on the river in the Newberg pool that along with my wife has raised our four children over the past twenty years as part of the river community here in Wilsonville. We are very active on the river during the summer months fishing, swimming, canoeing/kayaking, paddle boarding and boating. It is unimaginable for me to be witnessing the political maneuvering that has happened over the past few years and now on the call lead by a small minority of special interest groups and a few older well-funded individuals with little to no facts or science to support the most recent House Bills presented.

Our waterway policies should be grounded in solid research and favor the general public, not a very few select waterfront homeowners and paddlers looking to eliminate motorized boating for their own personal gain. Real studies should be conducted to determine the best ways to keep the river safe and healthy. Furthermore, 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 will make our waterways less safe and negatively impact Oregon families and small businesses. The House already extensively debated this bill and did not move forward. I respectfully urge you to do the same. Oregon needs our senators focused on COVID, economic recovery and getting our kids back in school. Please do not waste time on this unnecessary legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Hix