

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 857-A as is. I am an avid boater and water enthusiast, I have enjoyed waterskiing and boating on Willamette River for over 40 years, and I have lived on the river in the Newberg Pool for nearly 20 years. During that time, I have observed first-hand the changes in the river since the advent of these large, expensive, wake-producing monster boats, for lack of a better term.

I agree completely with Senator Kennemer's testimony during the committee hearing. This bill is not about banning boating on the river; it is simply about instituting a long-overdue very reasonable limit on the size of boats that can take over this narrow and environmentally-sensitive stretch of the river called the Newberg Pool. It is not about the individual freedoms of a few select group of large boat owners; it is about the overall long-term health and habitat of the river and the interests of the many other varied users of the river. As someone recently said, we don't allow 747's to land at the Aurora Airport; there needs to be some reasonable limit as to the size of the boats that are allowed to operate in this narrow stretch of river.

I am asking you to follow the bi-partisan lead of the senate and pass Senate Bill 857-A as is.

Thank you for your service and efforts to protect of our beautiful state.