

SB 857A - Updated written testimony to House Committee on Rules

If you remove the mis-information and self-interest aspect from this issue, you're left with the scientifically proven fact that heavily weighted boats and the powerful wakes they create are doing irreversible damage to the Newberg pool portion of the Willamette river. Your decision should be based solely on that.

The **science is accurate and clear** – excessive turbidity in the water caused by heavily weighted boat wakes reduces available food for fish, impedes fish migration and other natural fish movements, prevents the development of fish eggs and insect larvae, and decreases fish resistance to disease.

The proposed weight limit in SB 857A will not unduly restrict towed water sports. The only towed watersport that requires massive wakes is wake surfing. Wakeboarding, tubing and skiing can all be enjoyed without using heavily weighted boats.

In response to earlier testimony today, this is not a crowding or density issue nor do all waves regardless of boat weight cause the same damage.

SB 857A will not “take away summer water sports”, “shut down the Willamette River Newberg Pool to all motorized sports”, make that waterway “less safe”, “kick off more than two thirds of families who recreate there, or “destroy small businesses”.

What it **WILL** do is relocate heavily weighted boats to a wider body of water in which large wakes dissipate before creating environmental damage and that is the **right thing to do**. People in the Portland metro area drive hours to the mountains to snow ski. This is no different. Those who want to engage in a specific water sport requiring massive wakes could merely drive an hour or less to the Columbia River.

This is a man-made problem that is creating exponential environmental damage every year it continues. Man needs to implement a remedy before it's too late.

Please move this bill forward as written.