

Dear Chair Wagner and Committee Members:

I am writing to support SB857.

Wakeboats have recently increased in their power and their number. They are creating large artificial waves on Oregon's inland waters making especially rivers unenjoyable and unsafe for other river users. Their intense wave action also destroys private property of the river banks and destroys shallow areas near the banks where many aquatic species thrive and breed.

The time for action is now. SB857 protects fragile near-shore habitat and its threatened species that are listed under the Federal endangered Species Act. The bill protects homeowners who are subject to damaged docks, boats, and other private property. The bill will protect other river users -- swimmers, power-boaters, paddlers, fishermen, and waders.

By placing a 4000 pound weight limit for towed water-sports-boats, we protect the Newberg pool section of our treasured Willamette River for the majority of Oregonians today and for decades to come.

Thank you for your time; please pass SB857.

Sincerely, Susan Donnelly