

I support SB857 because this bill does not ban boating, it limits the use of boats specifically designed to produce the biggest waves, and this will protect the river.

The upper Willamette River is not wide enough or rocky enough to withstand these size waves. Ever since the problem has been noticed over ten years ago, there have been attempts to stop these big boats from producing the large waves. Rules that ban wake enhancing devices, rules on distances from shore, rules on where certain activities can take place. It hasn't worked and the problem just keeps getting bigger. This bill would set the weight limit at a point when the boats weighed 4000 pounds and no problems were occurring, but people were still recreating and have family fun. Just because a bigger boat can be manufactured, doesn't mean that that bigger boat should be able to operate on any body of water.

Again, this bill does not ban boating, it saves the Willamette River.