

I am submitting testimony to oppose SB 857. This legislation is born out of special interest agendas and is not representative of the community at large.

I enjoy fishing and playing on our waterways with my family and friends. Towed sports activities are huge part of playing, relaxing, cooling off in the hot summer months and are a great recreational activity. My family has enjoyed a few favorable trips each year and the Newberg Pool is one the most accessible and diverse bodies of water within the metropolitan area for these activities. A friend of mine is a former wakeboard champion who grew up locally and trained heavily on the Willamette River/Newberg Pool. It afforded him great opportunities around to travel the world, representing the Pacific Northwest and Portland Metropolitan area, and enjoying the Sport he loved.

I am deeply concerned about the negative economic impact on already struggling small businesses dependent on seasonal activities.

Our waterway policies should be grounded in favor of the general public, not select waterfront homeowners and paddlers looking to eliminate motorized boating for their own personal gain.

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,

Christopher Conger