

I am a physical therapist who lives in Portland and have friends that live on the banks of the Willamette river near Willsonville. I am not an avid boater so I don't have any irons in the fire regarding SB 857. In my profession, we rely heavily on research and objective data to treat human dysfunction so that we can achieve the best possible outcomes for our patients. In other words, like many fields, we deal with cause and effect.

I am in support of SB 857 because of cause and effect.

Cause: Heavy boats engineered for wake boarding create large artificial waves on a narrow river.

Effect: Shoreline turbidity, erosion, public and private property damage, damage to aquatic insects, fish, mussels, plants, and possibly dangerous conditions for other river users. The degradation of the shoreline and habitat is directly proportional to the size of the wake which is proportional to the size of the boat and the boat's speed.

Plan: Limit the weight of boats to no more than 4000 pounds based on best available research.

I have read some of the arguments in favor of SB 857 and some of those against SB 857. From what I can gather a few elitists have heavy boats that are designed to create large waves. These large waves negatively impact the Willamette endangered salmon and steelhead populations as well as other aquatic species and plant life, damage public and private property, and have a negative impact on other recreational users of the Willamette river that include fisherman, boaters, kayakers, and swimmers. As I learn more about the situation, I am disheartened that the Oregon Marine State Board has not acted to protect our Willamette River from these large boats.

I understand that wake boarding is a very fun activity but fun can still be had with lower boat limits. Legislative action is imperative.

The arguments against SB857 just don't hold water.

In my humble opinion this is a no brainer, please support SB857.