

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 have boated on the Willamette for years and support continued enforcement of safe boating practices. Making up reasons to kick boaters off specific parts of the river when there is no science for this is something I hope our Senate sees through. Boating in this section of the water should not be controlled by special interest.

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

When Sen. Kenemer has cited science he is brought forward scientist that have not truly performed science based studies but introduce biased opinion. Real studies should be conducted to determine the best ways to keep the river safe and healthy. It is fact that our rivers every year raise much higher then any wave from a boat. Erosion is only one of the arguments but seems to be a prime target and is clearly not taking into account the natural environmental factors that happen every year with water flow through the Willamette.

Furthermore, 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. Eliminating specific sized boats and further reducing the surf area will impact thousands of boaters.

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 and Sen. Bill Kenemer's own interest in his personal property. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

jeff maxwell